

**February-March 2015
Deer Regulation Changes under
Consideration for the 2016-2017
Season
Public Input Summary**



Missouri Department of Conservation
September 2015



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1-March 31, 2015 551

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- During February and March 2015, 8 Open Houses were held in each region around the state to gather public input regarding seven possible deer regulation changes for the 2016-2017 season, along with a web page to collect additional comments.
- A total of 736 attendees participated in at least one of the 8 Open Houses and provided almost 1,300 comments.
- Over 170 staff from 9 Divisions worked the Open Houses.
- From February 1, 2015-April 1, 2015, over 2,800 people have provided over 6,000 comments online.
- Almost 300 comments came to Department offices, the Regulations Committee, the Department website and letters mailed to Policy Coordination.
- A total of over 7,500 comments were received from both the open houses, online and through Department offices.
- Most commenters were men (95 percent of online comments, 92 percent of open house comments).
- Most people who provided comments online were between the ages of 35-54, followed by 55-74, then 20-34, under 19 and lastly 75 and older. The open house respondents were similar with most people providing comment were between the ages of 35-54, followed by 55-74, then 20-34, 75 and older and lastly 19 and under.
- Most respondents considered themselves hunters (98 percent of online commenters, 99 percent of open house participants).
- The majority of respondents who provided online comments heard about the opportunity from the Department website, social media and the *Missouri Conservationist* magazine, while people attending the open houses heard of the opportunity through the *Missouri Conservationist*, the Department's website and a friend.
- Sixty-seven percent of online commenters provided an email address so they could receive future updates, as compared to 53 percent of open house participants.
- Online comments regarding crossbows were the most numerous; followed closely by comments regarding the reduction of archery any deer permits; then reducing the length

of the November portion, changing the timing and the length of the late youth season, changing of the timing and length of the antlerless season, eliminating the urban zones portion and simplifying the conservation area regulations (in that order).

- Open house comments regarding crossbows were the most numerous; followed by reducing the length of the November portion by 2 days; the reduction of archery any-deer permits; changing the timing and length of the late youth portion; change the timing and length of the antlerless portion; eliminate the urban zones portion and simplify the conservation area regulations (in that order).
- The most common themes and issues included:
 - Crossbows
 - Support a regulation change to allow crossbows during archery season
 - Support the current regulation of not allowing crossbows during archery season
 - Reduction of the length of the November portion by 2 days
 - Support the reduction in length of the November portion by 2 days
 - Support the current length of the November season
 - Reduction of the archery any deer permits
 - Support the reduction of antlered deer to 1 during the archery season
 - Support the current regulation of two antlered deer during the archery season
 - Change the timing and length of the antlerless season
 - Support the change in timing and length of the antlerless season
 - Support the current timing and length of the antlerless season
 - Change the timing and length of the late youth portion
 - Support the change in timing and length of the late youth portion
 - Support the current timing and length of the late youth season
 - Eliminate the urban zones portion
 - Support the elimination of the urban zones
 - Support the current urban zone regulations
 - Simplify the conservation area regulations
 - Support the simplification of conservation area regulations

INTRODUCTION

Throughout the development of the White-tailed Deer Management Plan we have clearly outlined that our current priority for deer management in Missouri is to have a hunting season structure that achieves the Department's deer population goals while promoting hunter participation, recruitment, and retention.

Currently, the Department uses hunter surveys, production landowner surveys, archer observation surveys, deer population simulations, biological data, harvest summaries, and public comments when determining deer population goals for a particular management unit or county.

We gathered public input on Missouri's White-tailed Deer Management Plan and proposed regulations changes using quantitative scientific surveys of deer hunters, and open houses conducted around the state to gather public comment, along with a designated web page to collect comments. Scientific surveys are a means of obtaining levels of support or opposition that Missouri deer hunters have toward a proposed regulation change. Alternately, the open houses and web comments provided the public an opportunity to give us feedback on what they view as important issues and how they would like to see the department address those issues. The public comments provided to the department on various deer management issues were considered in the development of these regulations recommendations as feedback provides context to the opinions expressed in scientific surveys.

The current Missouri deer season structure was built during an era with a rapidly growing deer population, coupled with a concern that hunters would not be able, nor willing, to harvest enough does to stabilize or decrease deer numbers in much of rural Missouri. That paradigm has shifted as deer populations in much of Missouri are either at or below desired levels. Therefore, in order to meet the deer management challenges of today we must devise a new approach to deer management and reconsider the structure of the Missouri deer season. The goal is to adjust regulations in a manner that produces the desired population change (i.e., increase, stabilize, or decrease) and attempts to maximize hunter recruitment and retention. The regulations changes we are considering are to accomplish our goal modifying the current hunting season structure to achieve the Department's deer population goals while promoting hunter participation, recruitment, and retention.

Missouri Department of Conservation General Philosophy on Hunting Regulations and Season Structure

Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC)'s role and responsibility regarding hunting, fishing, and hunter / angler participation—**when consistent with biological considerations**—is to:

- Provide maximum opportunity and access;
- Minimize barriers;

- Use hunting to achieve wildlife management objectives;
- Support the economic benefits that result from hunting and fishing;
- Ensure that hunting and fishing remain viable mainstream activities for Missourians;
- Promote an understanding of our hunting and fishing heritage and traditions.

Regulation Changes under Consideration for the 2016-2017 Deer Season

Firearms Season Changes

Change under Consideration: Eliminate the Urban Zones Portion of the Firearms Deer Season.

November Portion –

The timing of the November portion of the firearms deer season during the peak of the rut was established when the deer population was below desired levels and the goal was to increase deer numbers by minimizing doe harvest and maximizing participation by encouraging buck harvest. Consequently, setting the November portion to coincide with the rut was a good deer management strategy in the early years of deer management. Deer activity is highest at that time so deer, especially bucks, are vulnerable to hunting. This was appropriate because we were most interested in protecting antlerless deer and taking a high proportion of antlered bucks was acceptable. Additionally, when the November portion was established many hunters were restricted to taking only antlered deer and were not selective, shooting the first legal deer they encountered. Hunters were satisfied because hunting during the peak of the rut increased their chances of taking a deer.

A growing deer population throughout the 1980's and 1990's produced many modifications of deer management objectives, shifting from a buck harvest emphasis to a doe harvest emphasis. In addition, deer hunter interests have changed. Hunters are becoming increasingly selective and increasingly supportive of managing for a greater proportion of bucks in older age-classes. Furthermore, the current November portion timing results in the removal of bucks during the peak of the breeding period, which is disruptive to the establishment of dominance hierarchies, and, biologically, is not the ideal time to apply heavy buck harvest. These dominance hierarchies ensure that the most fit, but not necessarily largest, bucks do a disproportionate amount of the breeding. For example, the current timing means that only approximately 40% of the breeding occurs prior to the November portion. A one-week later shift would mean that approximately 75% of the does would breed prior to opening of this portion of the deer season. A later season would maintain the dominance hierarchies so that more fit bucks have greater of a chance of breeding.

A 2013 survey of Missouri deer hunters indicated a high level of opposition to moving the November portion of the firearms season outside of the rut, and more opposition than support for moving the November portion one week later. Generally, these results indicate that Missouri

deer hunters value the opportunity to hunt deer during the rut when activity is greatest and do not desire a change in the timing of the November portion. For the reasons listed above, the current timing of the November portion of the firearms deer season is not biologically the ideal time. However, it is hard to dispute the positive social impacts of providing quality hunting opportunities to the greatest number of hunters during the period of peak deer activity. Thus, we do not recommend changing the opening date of the November portion of the firearms deer season at this time. Nevertheless, as attitudes and hunter desires shift, future consideration of a change in timing of the November portion is appropriate.

Additionally, in 1994 the November portion of the firearms deer season was expanded from 9 days to 11 days in response to a growing deer population. Over the last two decades deer hunter numbers and deer harvest opportunities (i.e., permits, open hunting days) have increased substantially. Over the same time period the deer population has stabilized or been reduced in many parts of Missouri. Therefore, we are considering reducing the length of the firearms deer season by two days to ensure that deer population goals continue to be met. Reducing the length of the November firearms deer season will only minimally reduce opportunity and harvest because the final two days of the November portion of the firearms deer season have traditionally been the two days with the lowest hunter harvest (Figure 1) and number of hunting trips (Figure 2).

Change under Consideration: Maintain the current timing of the November Portion of the Firearms Deer Season and shorten to 9-day.

Youth Portions –

In 2001, the Department initiated the first youth firearms portion of the deer season to get young hunters in the woods when the chance of success is optimal, and to engage them in hunting and the outdoors at an early age. In 2009, youth firearms hunting opportunities were expanded to include a late youth portion which was timed to follow all other portions of the firearms deer season. The addition of the youth portions and other youth recruitment efforts has been successful at increasing young hunter participation. However, it is not clear that these efforts are successfully retaining young hunters. Therefore, we continue to explore opportunities to provide quality hunting opportunities, like those provided during the early youth portion. Quality hunting opportunities are critical to success and satisfaction with the hunting experience. The current timing of the late youth portion has much lower success and participation than the early youth portion (Figures 1 and 2). Therefore, we recommend moving the late youth portion of the firearms deer season from the current timing of late December or early January to the Friday through Sunday following Thanksgiving. Altering the timing should increase success and participation as a result of better deer activity and weather conditions in late November when compared to the current timing of the late youth portion. Additionally, it expands youth hunting opportunities to include an additional day in which schools will be closed.

Change under Consideration: Expand the late youth portion to 3-days beginning the first Friday after Thanksgiving.

Antlerless Portion –

The antlerless portion of the firearms deer season was implemented in 1996 to increase the harvest of antlerless deer in response to a rapidly growing deer population in portions of the state. However, because participation was much lower than during the November portion of the firearms season, the antlerless portion has not resulted in a significant overall increase in antlerless harvest (Figures 1 and 2). Much of the harvest occurring during the antlerless portion is likely the result of shifting antlerless harvest out of the November portion. For example, in 2013, the antlerless portion only made up 6% of the total firearms deer harvest and 7% of the total antlerless deer harvest.

The deer population in most of Missouri is currently at or below the population goal. Thus, the additional antlerless harvest opportunities provided by the antlerless portion are no longer necessary to meet population goals. Also, increasing the number of deer hunting days with the creation of youth portions, expansion of November, antlerless, and alternative methods portions has created conflicts between deer hunters and other outdoors users like small game hunters. Removing or reducing the length of the antlerless portion of the deer season may result in some lost deer hunting opportunities, but it would reduce conflicts that occur between other hunters and outdoor users due to the length of the current deer hunting seasons. Therefore, we recommend reducing the length of the antlerless portion.

Change under Consideration: Reduce the length of the antlerless portion to 3-days and begin on the first Friday in December.

Urban Zones Portion –

The goal of the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) urban deer management program is to provide individuals and communities with information about deer management and to assist, as requested, in the management of white-tailed deer by providing management expertise, deer management plans, and population control options that provide residents and communities with effective ways to manage deer.

The Department has taken a progressive and proactive approach to urban and suburban deer management by adding tools to the toolbox to help urban and suburban communities meet their deer management objectives. The urban zones portion of the firearms deer season was implemented as one tool to address issues associated with overabundant urban deer populations. Department staff working closely with local communities to implement management strategies have led to ordinance changes allowing the use of archery equipment and controlled hunts in cities across the state, both of which have proven to be far more effective at managing urban deer

populations than the implementation of the urban zones portion of the firearms deer season. The allowance of an additional firearms hunting opportunity in urban zones does little to manage deer populations where the ability to use firearms is limited due to city ordinances or safety concerns. As a result, the majority of harvest during the urban zones portion occurs in the most rural portions and does not ensure adequate deer harvest in the locations where urban deer conflicts occur. Therefore, we are considering eliminating the urban zones portion of the firearms deer season. Removal of the urban zones portion will simplify the deer season structure and will not jeopardize the progress towards effective urban deer management that has occurred in many communities across the state.

Change under Consideration: Eliminate the urban zones portion of the firearms deer season

Archery Season Changes

Archery Methods –

The archery deer season has been growing in popularity over the past several years. Additionally, archery hunting is a critical deer management tool in many urban areas where the discharge of firearms is restricted. With the increasing popularity of the archery season, we have received an increasing number of requests to expand the season to include crossbows, which are currently only allowed with a Hunting Method Exemption.

Currently more than 10,000 Hunting Method Exemptions are in effect to allow persons with disabilities to use a crossbow during the archery deer season. A 2008 report on archery deer hunters found that similar to other types of hunting activity, many hunters begin at an early age, then decline in participation during the late teen and college years, followed by a return in the mid-to-late twenties with somewhat stable participation until around the age of 40. Once hunters enter their 40's archery participation diverges from firearms deer hunter participation. It appears this is the age when Missouri archery hunters begin to "drop out" of archery hunting. If, as suspected, physical limitations further the decline in participation of middle-aged archery hunters, allowing the use of crossbows would prolong participation for several years for those that still retain a desire to hunt.

Support and request for allowance of crossbows during the archery season have increase significantly over the last several years. A 2012 survey of 18,000 Missouri deer hunters indicated that 46% approve and 33% disapprove of allowing crossbows during the archery season. Therefore, the many Missourians who have individually requested additional crossbow hunting opportunity would no doubt welcome the allowance of crossbows during the archery deer season.

Our challenge is to balance contrasting hunter opinions with the desire to provide maximum hunting opportunity while also responsibly managing Missouri's deer population. In an effort to

maximize hunting opportunities, recruit younger hunters and retain older hunters, we are considering expanding the archery season to include crossbows.

Change under Consideration: Allow the use of crossbows by all hunters during the Archery Deer Season

Archery Antlered Deer Limit –

As population management goals shift toward encouraging antlerless harvest and hunters' desire to see more bucks in older age-classes, wildlife biologist have begun to consider the restrictions on buck harvest as a tool to manage the sex ratio and age structure of the deer population. For example, the antler-point restriction was implemented to shift harvest pressure from bucks to does and improve age structure of the buck segment of the populations. The point restriction has reduced the harvest of bucks 1½ years old, but has not greatly reduced total buck harvest. Therefore, one option to consider is reducing the total number of bucks an individual could harvest to reduce pressure on the buck segment of the population. This is particularly important as we explore ways to ensure appropriate antlerless harvest and meet hunter desires for more bucks in older age classes, particularly in areas where the antler point restriction is not biologically or socially appropriate.

The allowance of two bucks during the archery season was established at a time when there were relatively few archers and archery harvest made up a relatively small proportion of the total harvest and deer populations were rapidly expanding. Each year archery harvest makes up a larger proportion of the total antlered buck and overall deer harvest. For example, in 2000 archery deer harvest made up 10% of the total deer harvest and 11% of the antlered buck harvest, by 2013 those numbers had increased to 20% and 19%, respectively.

A recent survey of deer hunters indicates very low support for a limit of one buck all methods (archery and firearms) combined. However, public input indicates that many hunters would be accepting of a one archery antler deer and one firearms antlered deer limit. Therefore, we are considering reducing the number of antlered deer that may be taken during the Archery Deer Season to one.

Change under Consideration: Reduce the limit of antlered bucks taken during the Archery Deer Season to one.

Conservation Area Deer Regulations

Deer management on Missouri's public areas has had a diverse history ranging from refuges that served as a source of deer during the state's deer herd restoration in 1940's-60's to the current offering of diverse hunting opportunities. Diverse hunting regulations on conservation areas have been established to fulfill the desires of hunters with different harvest and hunting method interests.

In 2005, the Department applied six deer hunting regulations on conservation areas and monitored how they affected deer numbers and hunter attitudes. During 2005, 2006, 2011, and

2012 hunters on select conservation areas were randomly interviewed and received follow-up surveys to determine their perceptions of the deer population, hunting experiences, and overall satisfaction with different hunting regulations.

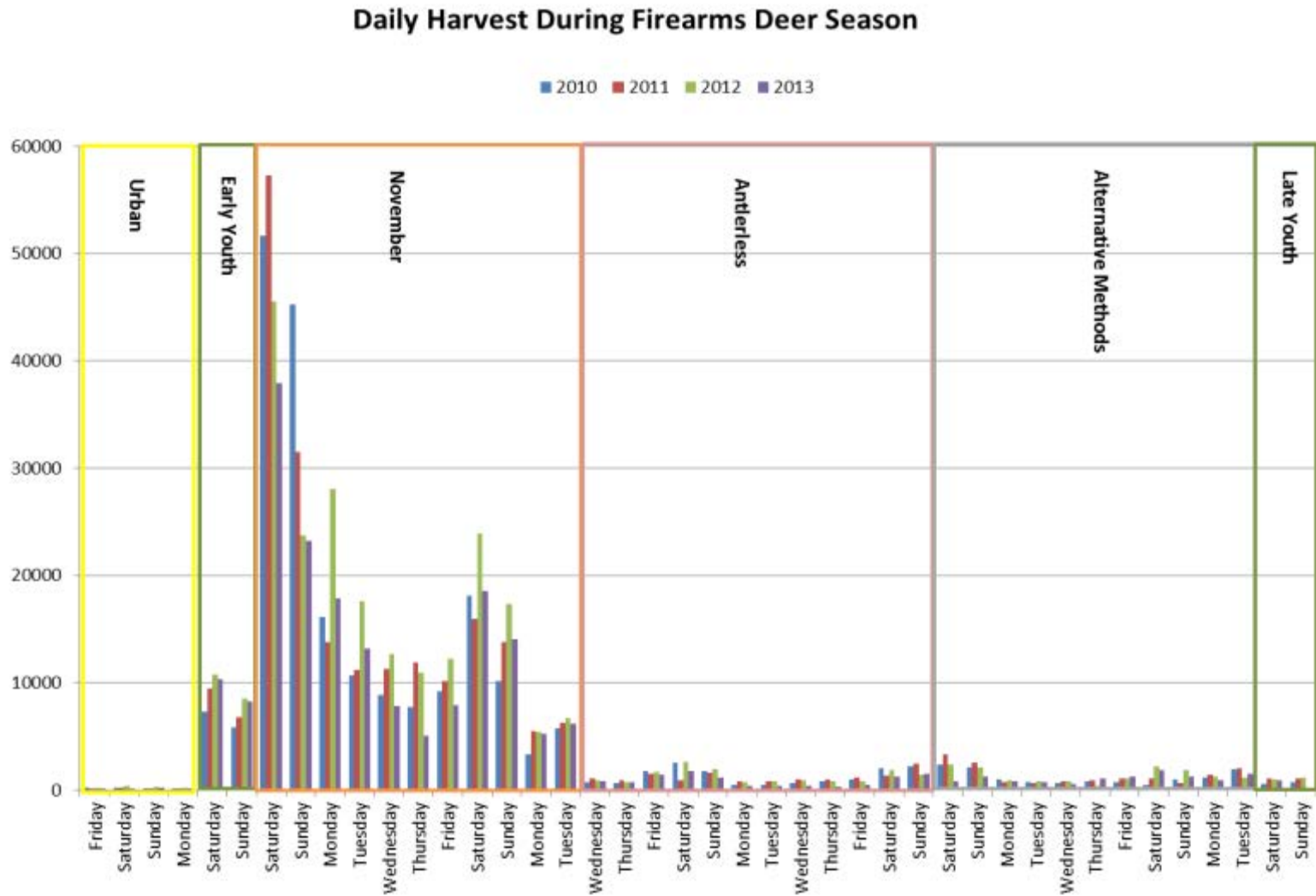
The study found that for most hunters, the opportunity to see and harvest a deer is important, affecting how hunters select an area to hunt, and their satisfaction with the hunting experience.

The results suggest that conservation areas with restrictive regulations (archery only, archery/muzzleloader methods, and bucks only) increase opportunities to see deer and produce more satisfied hunters than areas with more liberal regulations (statewide, open during antlerless portion) . However, for some hunters the opportunity to hunt deer and use whatever permits are available in the county is most important.

Generally, deer hunters on public land have lower success rates, perceive lower deer numbers, and tend to rate their hunting experiences lower than private land hunters. We continue to strive to manage deer numbers at desirable levels while providing diverse deer hunting opportunities for the public. The current set of deer regulations hunting options on Conservation Areas are confusing, do not allow managers to adapt regulations to changing deer populations, and in general there is low hunter satisfaction. Therefore, to increase hunter satisfaction and effectiveness of area regulations, we are considering changes that would simplify regulations and give managers the ability to adjust regulations to adapt to current deer population conditions.

Change under Consideration: Simplify Conservation Area regulations to include Archery Methods Only, Archery and Muzzleloader Methods Only, or Archery and Firearms Methods Only with optional allowance of Archery and Firearms Antlerless Permits.

Figure 1. Daily harvest totals during the urban zones, early youth, November, antlerless, alternative methods, and late youth portions of the firearms deer season from 2010 through 2013.



OPEN HOUSES

Open House Summary

During February and March 2015, 8 Open Houses were conducted around the state to gather public input regarding possible regulation changes for the 2016-2017 deer season that were under consideration, along with a web page to collect additional comments.

The meetings did not have formal presentations. Instead, they used an open-house format where people could come and go any time between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. Participants visited booths focusing on the changes for the 2016-2017 deer season under consideration including:

Firearms Season Changes

- Maintain the timing of the November portion and reduce the length to nine days
- Expand the late youth portion to three days, beginning the first Friday after Thanksgiving
- Reduce the length of the antlerless portion to three days, beginning the first Friday in December
- Eliminate the urban zones portion

Archery Season Changes

- Allow crossbows as a legal method during the archery deer and turkey season
- Reduce the limit of antlered deer during the archery season to one

Conservation Area Regulations

- Simplify conservation area regulations by limiting methods and use of firearms and archery antlerless permits

The open-house format lets attendees concentrate on their particular interests, asking questions and discussing their ideas one-on-one with biologists and other key staff. A total of 736 attendees participated in at least one of 8 Deer Open Houses.

- Almost 1300 comments were received from open house participants with comments regarding crossbows were the most numerous; followed by reducing the length of the November portion by 2 days; the reduction of archery any-deer permits; changing the timing and length of the late youth portion; change the timing and length of the antlerless portion; eliminate the urban zones portion and simplify the conservation area regulations (in that order). See Appendix A for a full list of comments provided at the Open Houses.

Open houses were held at the following locations:

- February 24 – MDC Burr Oak Wood Conservation Nature Center
1401 N.W. Park Road in Blue Springs
- February 26 – MDC Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center
11715 Cragwold Road in Kirkwood
- March 3 – MDC Springfield Conservation Nature Center
4601 S. Nature Center Way in Springfield
- March 5 – MDC West Plains Civic Center, Dogwood 1 and 2
110 St. Louis Street in West Plains
- March 10 – MDC Cape Girardeau Conservation Nature Center
2289 County Park Drive in Cape Girardeau
- March 12 – MDC Northeast Regional Office
3500 S. Baltimore in Kirksville.
- March 16 –MDC Central Regional Office
3500 E. Gans Road in Columbia
- March 31 –MDC Northwest Regional Office
701 James McCarthy Drive in St Joseph

DEMOGRAPHIC SUMMARY OF RESPONDENTS

Most of the people who attended the open houses were men (92 percent) who considered themselves to be hunters (99 percent). The majority of participants heard about the open houses from the *Missouri Conservationist* magazine followed by the Department's website.

THEMES AND ISSUES IDENTIFIED AT OPEN HOUSES

Public comments were collected at open houses, conducted February 24-March 31, 2015. A brief summary of the public comments provided at the open houses can be found below. The themes are listed in the order that received the most comments. For example, archery method-crossbow received the most comments; followed by reducing the length of the November portion by 2 days; the reduction of archery any-deer permits; changing the timing and length of the late youth portion; change the timing and length of the antlerless portion; eliminate the urban zones portion and simplify the conservation area regulations. Issues for each theme are summarized and sample comments (that best explained the theme) are provided. A complete list of comments received is provided in Appendix A.

Archery Method-Crossbow

- Support allowing crossbows during the archery season.
- Support current regulations. Crossbows are currently prohibited during archery season, except with a medical exemption.

Allow crossbows as a legal method during the archery deer and turkey season

Sample of Archery Method-Crossbow Comments

I am in favor of crossbow hunting, I'm 67 years old and it would help me!
Allow crossbow hunting for 62 years of age or older. Allow crossbow hunting for the 2 nd half of the bow season. Allow crossbow hunting for 16 years of age or younger...
Allow crossbows during archery...that's a no brainer.
Allowing crossbows reduces the aesthetic value of archery hunting. Much easier to master, much less movement, inherently more accurate greatly reducing the acquired woodsmanship.
If the deer population is currently at or below the population goal, why would you want to let everyone use crossbows to further deplete the population
No crossbows allowed to be used during the archery season unless physically disabled

Reduce the Length of the November Portion by 2 days

- Support maintaining the current timing of the November portion and reduce the length to 9-days
- Support the current regulation of an 11 day November firearm season

Maintain the current timing of the November portion and reduce the length to 9 days

Sample of the Length of the November Portion Comments

I would like to see the 9 day rifle season, and move it to December
I agree with the 9 day rifle season and would like to see it taken out of the rut all together
We "agree" with the proposed season changes...that are under consideration. We want a large healthy herd and a shorter season will...will help greatly
Keep the November portion open for 2 days to help give chances to guys/girls that are busy the other days
Keep it 11 days for those that travel 2 hours or more so they can enjoy time in the woods without as many hunters on those Mondays and Tuesdays
The 2 days off of firearms season will mess up hunters that cannot schedule vacation the first week

Reduce the Number of Archery Any-Deer Permits from 2 to 1

- Support the reduction of archery any-deer permits from 2 to 1
- Support keeping the current regulation of 2 archery any-deer permits

Reduce the limit of antlered deer during the archery season to 1

Sample of Reducing the Number of Archery Any-Deer Permits from 2 to 1

If the deer population is down, I am in favor of ...only one buck...
As far as reducing the antlered deer in archery season does not matter to me, personally 1 good buck with a bow is enough
I don't mind losing an archery buck tag as long as you are given a separate buck tag for city limit hunts, as other managed hunts
No to the reduction in any deer permits. Only 3% of bow hunters kill 2 bucks. How does that realistically affect numbers?
Agree to all (regulation changes) except reducing buck allowance during archery season from 2 to 1. Use QDM practices and never have shot 2 bucks but like the option on seeing older age class bucks
All changes are ok except reducing archery antlered deer to one. 577 deer killed as second archer antlered=>very low impact, but significant decrease in hunter enjoyment. Would reduce time kids go hunting if "Dad" kills early

Change the Timing and Length of the Late Youth Portion

- Support the change in timing and length of the late youth season
- Support the current regulation with the late youth season being in January
- The youth season is abused

Expand the late youth portion to 3-days beginning the first Friday after Thanksgiving

Sample of the Change in Timing and Length of the Late Youth Portion Comments

Youth season expansion is a good idea, not as cold, more time, better weather
Youth season is good, I like Thanksgiving weekend
I agree to expand the youth hunting opportunities to include additional days in which school is closed
Opposed to moving late youth firearms season to the Thanksgiving Holiday
It is not equitable to move the second youth season to November. If this is done, this disadvantages other hunters because youth get to hunt before the rifle season and again before the muzzleloader/alternative season. If you hunters get special treatment, why don't other "special interest" groups such as women, veteran, etc...?
I am all for youth hunting but I think a lot of big bucks are being wounded or being harvested by adults during the youth season now

Antlerless Season

- Support the reduction in length of the antlerless portion to 3 days beginning on the first Friday in December

- Support keeping the antlerless season as-is, which was from November 26-December 7, 2014
- Eliminate the antlerless season.

Reduce the length of the antlerless portion to 3-days and begin on the first Friday in December

Sample of Antlerless Season Comments

I hope to have less days on doe season, the deer population is too low over the last two years
Discontinue the antlerless season to allow for the antlerless tags in the firearm season
I feel the antlerless portion to be reduced but to 4-6 days to allow everyone an opportunity to hunt does without taking much time off work
If the antlerless season is reduced give the landowners an additional “Window of Opportunity” to harvest the number of does required to manage their private land (and the tags to do so)
Cutting the antlerless season is going to seriously affect my ability to harvest “meat deer”. Warm weather during a 3 day season prevents home processing. Also, I use the mid=week hunting days to harvest calm, unharrassed animals
Please consider abolishing the antlerless season

Urban Zones

- Support the elimination of the urban zones portions
- Do not support the elimination of the urban zones portions
- Eliminate the urban zones portions

Sample of the Urban Zones Comments

Support eliminating a special urban zone season
Yes, get rid of urban gun zones
Support the elimination of the urban zone as long as I can still hunt
Approve all except eliminating urban portion-still too many vehicle collisions
Not in favor of elimination, many urban hunters have used the same are for years, helps control herd
Please keep the urban zone portion. I live in Greene County and there is definitely a problem with an abundance of deer in parts of Springfield. The Urban Zone portion helps to reduce the deer population so they don’t get hit by vehicles

Conservation Areas

- Support the simplification of conservation area regulations
- Do not support the simplification of conservation area regulations

Simplify conservation area regulations by limiting methods and use of firearms and archery antlerless permits

Sample of the Conservation Area Comments

Okay to simplify conservation area regulations by limiting methods and use of firearms and archer antlerless permits
I support simplifying conservation regulations
Conservation areas-keep it simple!!
Opposed to conservation area changes
Conservation areas: keep them as is. Each area is different and should be managed differently. Maybe increase ways to inform the public on area regulations. Try not to limit methods too much. I need to hunt

ADDITIONAL THEMES AND ISSUES

Additional themes and issues surfaced through the open house comments (see Appendix A for the full list of open house comments). These themes include deer permits, bag limits, landowner permits, non-resident permits, youth season, deer management assistance program (DMAP) and a large number of miscellaneous comments. Listed below are the additional themes with the most common issues listed below the theme.

Non-Resident Deer Permits

- Non-resident fees should be reciprocal.
- Support a price increase.
- Draw only.
- Fees are fine.
- Reduce fees for non-resident land owners living in neighboring states

Season Changes

- Consider a split season around a couple of weekends.
- Move the general season back one week later so the bucks, big bucks, rut with not too much pressure.
- Have a portion of archery just for traditional bows, no compounds or crossbows.
- Do away with late seasons in January.
- The seasons are long enough.

Alternative Methods Season

- Do not like muzzle loader season because it falls Christmas week.
- Change alternative methods back to primitive weapons.

- Allow slugs during the alternative methods season.
- Allow shotguns during alternative methods season and include youth.
- Do a 7 day gun season followed by a 7 day muzzleloading season back to back.

Limit Tags

- Make 1 doe per county hunted archery and 1 doe per county firearms.
- Do away with unlimited antlerless tags.
- Reduce nuisance permits.
- Delete 'farm tags' for leases.
- Quit giving out nuisance tags unless they agree to take animal for the share the harvest program.

Turkey Comments

- Turkey season should be all day.
- Eliminate archery turkey tags and make them optional for a reduced fee vs. spring tags.
- Have archery turkey season prior to gun season, harvest applies to season.

Miscellaneous Comments

- Take the 4 point out of the archery season
- Support statewide antler point restriction.
- Contain CWD.
- Leave CWD alone.
- Allow baiting.

Sample of Miscellaneous Comments

Remove the 4 pt law; our deer herd has not increased since the regulation took place. Now we are shooting smaller deer so we have meat to eat.
Be very aggressive on CWD efforts. Be strong against the captive cervid industry. No question that CWD originated in captive herds. Eliminate the 4-point rule statewide. Unquestionably bucks hold higher incidence of CWD than does. Don't stockpile bucks.
Wouldn't mind seeing the antler point restriction statewide.
All changes are informed by science based facts and MDC is to be complimented. CONCERN:- CWD-24 known cases now-how many in 20 years-if using a multiplier formulas it's getting serious 520,000 hunters in 2014-times 1- =over 5 million hunters. 52 plus or minus captive deer ranches where CWD is found. State legislators need to make CWD a priority for our state-find the best solution.
Keep up the efforts on CWD containment. MDC is leading the nation in this regard.

CWD - do not allow any cervids to be brought into the state. It jeopardizes our deer, elk. Why do my conservation dollars have to straighten out their mess? The businesses need to be fined to pay for all the costs of CWD!!
Leave the CWD BS alone. It's been happening forever killing thousands of deer does no good stop wasting y money on it and quit giving out nuisance tags unless they agree to
Move deer season to the end of November and allow baiting.
...allow baiting and don't worry about CWD so d--n much, it kills hardly as many as you claim, EHD is much worse.

ONLINE OPEN HOUSE

ONLINE OPEN HOUSE SUMMARY

For those who could not attend an Open House, the Department set up an online open house which allowed citizens to access everything that was available at the 8 open houses across the state. Online comments were collected February 1-March 31, 2015 at <http://mdc.mo.gov/node/28131>. Over 6,000 online comments were received from over 2,800 respondents during this time frame.

The Online Open House web text is provided in Appendix D.
The Open House handouts are found in Appendix E.

DEMOGRAPHIC SUMMARY OF ONLINE RESPONDENTS

Most of the respondents were men (95 percent) who consider themselves hunters (98 percent) and the majority of online respondents were in the 35-54 year old age class. Most of the online respondents heard about the opportunity to comment through the Department's website, followed by social media and the *Missouri Conservationist* magazine. Sixty-seven percent of the online respondents provided an email address so they could receive future updates.

THEMES AND ISSUES IDENTIFIED THROUGH ONLINE OPEN HOUSE

A brief summary of comments provided through the online open house can be found below. These comments are not votes, but help the Department to understand themes and issues from the comments provided online. The themes are listed in the order that received the most comments. For example, archery method-crossbow received the most comments; followed by buck limit, antler-point restrictions, antlerless season and chronic wasting disease. Issues for each theme are summarized and sample comments (that best explained the theme) are provided. A complete list of comments received is provided in Appendix B.

Archery Method-Crossbow

- Support allowing crossbows during the archery season.
- Support current regulations. Crossbows are currently prohibited during archery season, except with a medical exemption.
- Support allowing crossbows for older, younger and people with shoulder problems.

Allow crossbows as a legal method during the archery deer and turkey season

Sample of Archery Method-Crossbow Comments

...25 states currently have full inclusion in archery season with no problems. I've been waiting for this to occur and have everything I need...I encourage you to push this ahead and approve crossbows for the upcoming season!
...making crossbows legal for the upcoming 2015-2016 season makes the most sense, will keep everyone happy and can easily be made this spring. I believe everyone will be happy with crossbow implementation...
I agree with allowing crossbows during archery season. It would allow for more women, children and older hunters to enjoy archery hunting.
Crossbows are already allowed for people that actually need them. Way to go MDC in helping further the "Everyone gets a trophy liberal mindset". If you can't take time to be proficient with a bow or go get a doctor exemption stay out of the dang woods. (Pointless).
I hate the idea of introducing crossbows for archery season. This is a bad idea which takes the sport out of bow hunting. I am almost 40 and would never think of picking up a crossbow. It is just like gun hunting with a trigger. There is no skill involved in looking through a scope to shoot something with a bow. Takes away from the heritage of bow hunting and is just a BAD BAD idea!
I am very disappointed that you are recommending crossbow use for everyone. I am one with the crossbow use exemption. I have multiple sclerosis, so I can't pull a bow or climb a treestand, but I love to hunt, and bow season is one of the few times during the year that I DON'T feel disadvantaged. ...why don't you recommend (that) crossbow is ok for senior citizens or something? But not ok for everyone, ok for everyone puts disabled hunters back at disadvantaged.
I am opposed to crossbows in the archery season. However, bending to MDC's reason for allowing crossbows. I would support allowing those 16 and under, plus those 65 and older to use crossbows.
I don't think we should allow crossbows to every archery hunter but possibly allow adults over the age of 60.

Reduce the Number of Archery Any-Deer Permits from 2 to 1

- Support the reduction of archery any-deer permits from 2 to 1
- Support keeping the current regulation of 2 archery any-deer permits

Reduce the limit of antlered deer during the archery season from 2 to 1

Sample of Reducing the Number of Archery Any-Deer Permits from 2 to 1

...re: the change to one archery buck-very much in favor of-I never understood why two bucks were allowed-I would imagine most archery hunters also firearm hunt, so these people have had the ability to kill 3 bucks per year-too many.

As an avid bow hunter, I am perfectly fine with the reduction of the buck tags to 1.
I agree (reducing the number of bucks from 2 to 1) that this will make people more selective in choosing what they shoot and result in more mature bucks.
Please leave the two buck rule for archery the way that is now. I seldom take a late season buck but by having the tag I will be motivated to go, without it I would miss going and getting the enjoyment of being out at a great time of the season.
Strongly oppose (reducing the number of bucks to 1). The percentage of bow hunters that harvest 2 bucks is very small. The regulation change would result in a statistically insignificant reduction in the buck harvest. The argument that it will help more bucks reach older age-classes is compelling but seems weak in the CWD zone and in counties with antler point restrictions.
I do not support reducing archery antlered deer harvest of deer to 1 because I cannot foresee a benefit to the overall deer herd from this action. I believe the 2 antlered option is a big draw for many archers who see it as an opportunity to pursue another trophy buck after they have already harvest their first antlered deer.

Reduce the Length of the November Portion by 2 days

- Support maintaining the current timing of the November portion and reduce the length to 9-days
- Support the current regulation of an 11 day November firearm season

Maintain the current timing of the November portion and reduce the length to 9 days

Sample of the Length of the November Portion Comments

I agree with shortening the length of the firearms season but would be more in favor of moving it to December 1 to get the firearms season more out of the rut.
As long as the fall firearms season covers 2 weekends, I am fine with reducing to 9 days.
I agree (with reducing the length to 9 days). I'm predominantly an archery hunter and there has been a lot of encroachment on that season if you hunt on public land by all the other firearms seasons (especially in urban counties), special weapons seasons and the month ling firearms turkey season.
I can't say that I like the reduction in the number of days that I can hunt with a firearm but I would certainly prefer to see more deer on those days that I can be on the stand.
I am somewhat against reducing the November portion from 11 days to 9 days because some years that last Monday and Tuesday are the only days I can make it out to hunt all day. But this for purely selfish reasons so if studies indicate this is what is best for the deer population then that's what needs to happen.
I do not support the proposed changes to shorten the firearms and doe season lengths. I would want increased opportunities to hunt not less. If the biology data shows a need to decrease harvest, I would suggest to limit the number of does or even one buck across archer and firearms.

...I do NOT support the proposition to shorten the length of the firearms deer season. Many people have full time jobs are hard pressed to put enough hours in the tree stand as is, and taking off one day will only it harder. Furthermore, it seems that our deer herd is getting better every year, and I do not believe that one day of firearms season will make much of a difference.

Change the Timing and Length of the Late Youth Portion

- Support the change in timing and length of the late youth season
- Support the current regulation with the late youth season being in January
- The youth season is abused

Expand the late youth portion to 3-days beginning the first Friday after Thanksgiving

Sample of the Change of Timing and Length of the Late Youth Portion

I support this as January is not an ideal time to introduce new hunters when the weather is not good and deer movement is low

I support extending the late youth season. This would provide more opportunities for the next generation of hunters

Do not expand the late youth portion. Youths can hunt during the firearms season like everyone else. I have children and I see no purpose in the youth season especially at the end of October

Expand the late portion and move to the day after Thanksgiving=NO it would interfere with archery hunters

I think all of the changes are great except for expanding the youth season. I think there is too much trespassing and poaching that goes on during the youth hunts

I do not like this change because I think it gets abused by adults. Keep the late portion after the alternative weapons season

Antlerless Season

- Support the reduction in length of the antlerless portion to 3 days beginning on the first Friday in December
- Support keeping the antlerless season as-is, which was from November 26-December 7, 2014
- Eliminate the antlerless season.

Reduce the length of the antlerless portion to 3-days and begin on the first Friday in December

Sample of Antlerless Season Comments

I also agree on reducing the length of the antlerless portion to 3 days, and begin on the first Friday in December. I know you must kill does to conduct proper deer management, but deer season lasts forever it seems

I like the idea of a 3 day antlerless season, the guns are on the deer for too long
I disagree with reduction of the antlerless season to just three days. I have limited time to hunt with a firearm and rely on the harvest of a deer each year for my family. I believe that a compressed antlerless season may result in a reduced harvest, but will likely increase the hunter pressure that could lead to hunter frustration
I believe the cutting the does season to 3 days is unrealistic if you are trying to practice QDMA on your property
The antlerless seasons should be eliminated until the deer herd reaches appropriate populations
I would be fine with eliminating the antlerless portion, while we increase the population. Reducing the season and moving the dates to late in the year are also good

Urban Zones

- Support the elimination of the urban zones portions
- Do not support the elimination of the urban zones portions

Eliminate the urban zones portion

Sample of Urban Zone Comments

I am for eliminating the urban deer hunt...I believe they should allow the urban areas to be managed more on a local level based on need
Agree if the urban zones aren't effective, eliminate them
Reduce the urban zone rather than eliminate it...
I don't and have never hunted the urban portion (neutral)
...I strongly encourage you to continue the urban portion of the firearms season as that is a great opportunity for me and many landowners to help manage our farms in urban settings where there is an overabundance of deer which cause property damage to home gardens and are often hit by vehicles
I don't understand why you would eliminate the urban portion

Conservation Areas

- Support the simplification of conservation area regulations

Simplify conservation area regulations by limiting methods and use of firearms and archery antlerless permits

Sample of the Conservation Area Comments

I would be agreeable to all as temporary changes. I utilize Conservation Areas for the majority of my hunting and would like to see archery antlerless tag use more liberal on Conservation Areas if the number of antlerless tags are reduced.

Simplify conservation area regulations by limiting methods and use of firearms and archery antlerless permits
Simplifying regulations is always a good thing
Ok with simplifying Cons. Area Regs. but not eliminating firearms
Simplifying conservation area regulations by limiting methods and use of firearms and archery antlerless permits: Simplicity would be appreciated

ADDITIONAL THEMES AND ISSUES

Additional themes and issues surfaced through the online comments. These themes include non-resident deer hunters, deer permits, Missouri landowners, bag limits, youth season, deer seasons and a large number of miscellaneous comments. Listed below are the additional themes with the most common issues listed below the theme.

Non-Resident Deer Permits

- Fees should be reciprocal
- Fees are too low/Raise non-resident fees
- Needs to be a draw
- Fees are too high
- Raise fees and make a draw system
- Too many nonresident hunters

Season Changes

- Consider a split season around a couple of weekends
- Seasons are long enough
- Do away with late seasons in January
- Have a short October muzzleloader season=3 days?
- Do a 7 day gun season followed by a 7 day muzzleloading season back to back

Alternative Methods Season

- Do not like muzzleloading season because it falls on Christmas week
- Change alternative weapons season back to primitive weapons
- Allow slugs during the alternative hunt
- Move muzzleloader season to November
- Black powder season should be during the rut

Limit Tags

- Allow 1 doe per county hunted archery and 1 doe per county hunted firearms
- Do away with unlimited antlerless tags
- Would support limiting doe tags for a few years

- Delete “farm tags” for leases
- Quit giving out nuisance tags unless they agree to take animal for the share the harvest program

Turkey Comments

- Turkey season should be all day
- Eliminate archery turkey tags and make them option for a reduced fee vs spring tags
- Have archery turkey season prior to gun season, harvest applies to season
- Crossbows are going to be devastating on our turkey population
- Support the proposed changes to allow crossbows as a legal method during the archery deer and turkey season

Miscellaneous Comments

- Need to remove the 4 point restriction
- Need statewide antler point restrictions
- Contain CWD
- Allow baiting
- Proposed regulation changes contradict themselves
- The combined seasons limit the outdoors for other types of activities, such as hiking, birdwatching and backpacking

Sample of Miscellaneous Comments

...I would like to see a "Cull a Buck" season. Meaning maybe every 3 or 4 seasons drop the four point restriction so we can cull some of these inferior bucks from the gene pool. We have seen some scrawny racked deer the past several years and we would like to remove them from passing on their genes. People are killing the good genetic deer and leaving the little racked although mature deer to carry on. I know the state is trying to make the herd have a higher quality buck but I'm not so sure it's working out that way.

I would like to suggest a possible suspension of the antlered point restriction during archery season only. It is tough enough to harvest a deer during bow season but the APR puts an added layer to this type of hunt.

... you need to have a four point restriction state wide.

Keep the four point restriction and limit any deer permits.

I would also ask that you continue to take a scientific approach to CWD and EHD. Please do not take a page out the Illinois or Wisconsin playbook by establishing eradication zones where deer will no longer be found. There has to be a better way to deal with the issue.

My biggest concern is CWD. I was very saddened to see that more deer were found with it this past season, and several of those were outside the small area where you have found all the others. I had hoped that maybe you could contain it, or even eliminate it, but it looks like it's just going

to spread. I feel bad for the next generation of hunters, because their experience is going to be much different than what I have seen. Thank you for all you do....

....Missouri needs to join MOST OTHER STATES and allow baiting!!!

Allow baiting like other states. 3 day youth season.

The proposed regulation changes contradict themselves. It is explained in the rationale that reducing the firearms deer season by two days will help increase deer numbers, which are now "at or below desired levels." The same rationale is used to explain reducing the antlerless portion of the firearms season. I am not against any of these proposals.

In the proposal the MDC wants less doe killed in the firearm season but at the same time they want to limit bow hunters to one buck and the other. You are contradicting yourself because if you want less doe killed in firearms and more killed in archery season by limiting the bow hunter to just one buck and to compound this you are wanting to add crossbows as a legal method during archery season...Why are you contradicting yourself with the proposals you are considering?

I am not a deer hunter and the extended deer hunting season makes it hard for others that enjoy recreation in the woods. I do not like to go out hiking or riding my horse when there are firearm hunters in the woods, even on my own property. We have 160 acres in St. Charles county.

The only proposed change that I have a concern about is the date of the youth portion to begin the weekend after Thanksgiving. I understand it could encourage youth participation; however, as a lifelong Missouri resident and outdoorswoman the weekend after Thanksgiving is traditionally a time our family gets outside to enjoy hiking and exploring before the long winter months. This typically includes visiting conservation areas nearby. If this weekend becomes the youth hunting weekend it would affect the ability of others to safely enjoy the outdoors during the holiday. We often have family from out of state and this is a prime time to show off Missouri's natural wonders to them. Please consider the safety and concerns of all nature lovers before approving the proposed regulations.

COMMENTS RECEIVED DIRECTLY (via mail or phone call)

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED DIRECTLY

These comments came from the Department offices throughout the state Regulations Committee or Department website. These comments were sent to me directly, copied to me or received through telephone call. There are probably many that I did not receive. The full list of comments is found in Appendix C.

THEMES AND ISSUES IDENTIFIED THROUGH COMMENTS RECEIVED DIRECTLY

As with the open house and online comments, the themes are listed in the order that received the most comments. Archery method-crossbow received the most comments; followed closely by season timing, antler-point restriction, buck limit, antlerless season and chronic wasting disease. A brief summary of the public input themes and issues from the comments received can be found below.

Archery Method-Crossbow

- Support proposed regulations.
- Support the current regulations of prohibiting crossbows during the archery season.

Allow crossbows as a legal method during the archer deer and turkey season

Sample Archery Method-Crossbow Comments

Dear Sirs: Heartily agree with your consideration of crossbow access for all archers in the State. Several neighboring States allow crossbow activity already. Much more to the point....the crossbow is a much more humane method for taking a deer or turkey....less chance of poor arrow placement. Appreciate your consideration.

CROSSBOWS- I am for the crossbows being legal for anyone to use. I think that it gives younger and older people a chance to experience hunting at an earlier age and older age class. They are very accurate like a gun but have the distance of a bow. Some people don't practice with a bow like they should and with a crossbow would give them the confidence they need not to mention they could hunt when the weather is warmer out and not have to wait till gun season to shoot their deer. You can shoot them sitting on your butt with your back to a tree and be comfortable and don't have to worry about being scared of heights. There is nothing wrong with crossbows and not everyone would go out and buy one. The hardcore bow hunter are still gonna bow hunt with a bow.

I feel that crossbows should be included in the archery deer and turkey season to allow more opportunity for the senior hunter and with the advanced technology of today's compound bows how can crossbows be looked down on. Thank you!

<p>Adamantly against crossbows to the archery season. Believes it will raise the number of wounded deer and also hurt our deer population.</p>
<p>I consider myself fortunate in that I can still hunt with a (compound) bow despite my age. However, many hunters my age are physically unable to draw and shoot a bow, even a compound with 50-80% let-off. However, I'm not convinced that the archery hunting community (myself included) wants to see crossbows universally allowed for the entire season. Alternatively, I would propose allowing older hunters to use them throughout the season, as is the situation in other states (age 65 in WI, age 62 in IL). Perhaps also allow their use in the urban zones, which would encourage more hunting in those areas and lower the probability of wounding and losing the deer (a huge deterrent to subdivision hunting). I would also support allowing their use in the late (post-firearms) part of the season. Late-season deer are skittish and the lack of canopy makes shooting them with a bow difficult. I suspect that traditional bow hunters will be more willing to acquiesce to a partial crossbow season than to the proposed universal acceptance, which has drawn much negative criticism. 2. Reducing the number of antlered deer from two to one. I personally have no issue with this, although I suspect that it is related to the crossbow proposal and intended to mollify the traditional archery hunters. As indicated, late-season deer (especially post-rut bucks) are hard to kill with a bow. Modifying the crossbow proposal per # may obviate this change. However, allowing late-season crossbow hunting and their use in urban zones together with reducing the harvest of antlered bucks may encourage doe hunting,</p>
<p>Archery methods: I am a disabled army veteran and could have had a permit to use a crossbow for many years. I just recently did get that permit. I would not think it right for others to have the same privilege as the handicapped and disabled veterans. Don't allow crossbows for everyone.</p>

Reduce the Length of the November Portion by 2 days

- Support maintain the current timing of the November portion and reduce the length to 9 days
- Support the current regulation of an 11 day November firearm season

Maintain the current timing of the November portion and reduce the length to 9 days

Sample of the Length of the November Portion comments

<p>Assuming that the first day of this season will be a Saturday, and the season is the following ten consecutive days, this still affords two weekends for hunting. As such, this proposal does not seem to have</p>
<p>November Portion 9 Days - ok Strongly agree</p>
<p>Ok for the following: Maintaining the timing of the November portion and reducing the length to nine days...</p>

I do not have a computer and live in rural Osage County; I have never gone online in my life and have no desire to do so. I read about the changes being considered for deer hunting regulations for 2016-2017 season in the J.C. News Tribune Newspaper...I have no problem with either leaving it at 11 days or reducing to 9 days.
Reducing the firearms season from 11 to 9 days will have no significant impact. You have the data on how many deer are harvested on those last two days
Move November portion back after main rut!!! (Dec 5th). Maintain the timing of the November portion and reduce the length to nine days – NO

Reduce the Number of Archery Any-Deer Permits from 2 to 1

- Support the reduction of archery any-deer permits from 2 to 1.
- Support keeping the current regulation of 2 archery any-deer permits.

Reduce the limit of antlered deer during the archery season to 1

Sample of Reducing the Number of Archery Any-Deer Permits from 2 to 1 Comments

Yes, reduce archery to one buck only
ONE BUCK LIMIT- I have hunted other states with a one buck limit and I think it is a good thing. I think we should go with a one buck limit throughout the whole deer season. That will make everybody a little pickier cause if you have a 2 buck limit there is going to be a lot of bucks (younger bucks) being killed during one of the seasons cause they will just shoot one with a bow and trophy hunt with a gun.
Reducing the number of antlered deer from two to one. I personally have no issue with this, although I suspect that it is related to the crossbow proposal and intended to mollify the traditional archery hunters. As indicated, late-season deer (especially post-rut bucks) are hard to kill with a bow. Modifying the crossbow proposal per # may obviate this change. However, allowing late-season crossbow hunting and their use in urban zones together with reducing the harvest of antlered bucks may encourage doe hunting, a desirable outcome in some areas. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed changes to the regulations.
Having the chance and I do mean a chance to get a buck before and after rifle season is great. I have never filled both my buck archery tag in a season and would think that only 5-10% of archery hunters actually fill both tags! It is nice to maybe get a doe or a buck in Sept and still have that chance in Dec. as well. The season is so long what if you get a nice buck in Sept and still have that chance in Dec. as well .1 The season is so long what if you get a nice buck in Sept. now 4 more months of the season is still left; yes you can still go and be doe only but why!! The setup is great the way it is, a chance for one buck before and after rifle season. Most people are not over harvesting bucks during archery season; one buck would be great two is very unlikely anyway!!
Antlered deer for archery - Strongly Disagree. 1. Please don't make me kill a buck that I normally wouldn't take just because I only have 9 days to kill a potential second antlered deer

during rifle season. 2. I can get on board with only a two buck limit if you let me choose my method. A. Offer me the opportunity to buy 3 antlered tags with the knowledge that I can only kill one buck with a rifle. If I don't kill a buck during rifle season offer me another archery tag. 2 Buck Limit - * One antlered deer before rifle season. * One antlered deer during rifle season. * One or two antlered deer after rifle season. I will be more than happy to pay for 3 tags. Let me fill 2 of them with the weapon of my choice.

10 of my hunting buddies and I spend \$6,000/year leasing 600 +/- acres in northern Missouri for hunting and reducing archery antlered deer kills to one/season significantly increases our annual cost/deer. Two of the group comes from Maryland and South Carolina each year. I personally would not like to see a limit of one antlered deer/archery season for the above reasoning. Please give my thoughts on this subject careful consideration.

Change the Timing and Length of the Late Youth Portion

- Support the change in timing and length of the late youth season.
Support the current regulation with the late youth season being in January

Expand the late youth portion to 3 days beginning the first Friday after Thanksgiving

Sample of the Change in Timing and Length of the Late Youth Portion Comments

Expand the late youth portion to three days, beginning the first Friday after Thanksgiving - YES.

Changing the youth season to an earlier date is a good idea because it is usually so cold in January the kids don't enjoy going.

The youth hunt should stay at one weekend (two days) and NOT go to three days.

Only does should be allowed during the early youth season in order to give all hunters the chance to take trophy bucks. The late youth season they would be allowed to take bucks or does.

I want to begin by saying that I have personally hunted deer with family twice in the past four years. I think deer hunting can be great for building relationships, developing self-discipline, gratitude for creation, stewardship, and spirituality. It far exceeded my expectations. But one of the factors you consider is the interests and needs of other outdoor users. I ask you to consider the interests of hikers and back packers. I oppose scheduling a 3 day youth hunt for the Friday-Sunday after Thanksgiving because it will prevent me from enjoying my Friday after Thanksgiving tradition of hiking the Middle Fork Section of the Ozark Trail.

There is not that much participation in the youth season either way! And making it at a different time or one day longer is not going to change anything. I say leave it the same, the same numbers of youth are going out anyway, there is no need to make it longer or move that dates around. The parents are the one's determining the amount of participation and (also a fair amount of the shooting and harvesting of the deer)

Antlerless Season

- Support the reduction in length of the antlerless portion to 3 days beginning on the first Friday in December
- Support keeping the antlerless seasons as-is, which was from November 26-December 7, 2014.
- Eliminate the antlerless season.

Reduce the length of the antlerless portion to 3 days and begin on the first Friday in December.

Sample of Antlerless Season Comments

I support any shortening of the antlerless season, including its elimination.
The doe season needs to be shortened but to six days and make them over two weekends to allow more hunter participation.
As for the antlerless firearm season going to three days, I think this is wrong, but I do think it should be four days. Two separate weekends.
... decreasing the antlerless season from 12 days to 3 days and moving it to the first Friday in December. This would ultimately keep the out-of-state hunter from participation in this portion of the hunt.

Urban Zones

- Support the elimination of the urban zones portions.
- Support the current urban zone portions.

Eliminate the urban zones portions

Sample of Elimination of Urban Zones Comments

I 100% agree with the elimination of the urban deer season portion
I do not have an opinion on the Urban Zones season
Opposed to the elimination of the Urban Zone season
Against eliminating the urban zones portion. I was on the committee with Joel Porath for urban hunting in Maryland Heights. The deer will just multiply out of control if the urban zone portion is eliminated. People argue urban hunting is not safe. It is very safe for bows. Most hunters are in the tree shooting downward. It is safe and necessary. Thank you for taking time to allow me to comment.
I strongly urge that this proposal be abandoned. The whitetail deer in the metropolitan areas are thriving. They are the cause of many vehicular accidents, causing personal injuries, property damage, and injuries and death to the deer. In these areas, the deer have shelter, water and food, and little pressure or predation. Controlled hunting is about the only method to control this almost-excessive population. Further, the local municipalities have undertaken legal efforts to eliminate hunting when safety concerns rise. For example, the eastern portion of Jackson County

limits hunting, but in specific areas only as identified by the local government. I believe that a blanket suspension of this Urban Season is unwarranted since the local municipalities are addressing this matter.

Conservation Areas

- Support the simplification of conservation area regulations.
- Do not support the simplification of conservation area regulations

Simplify conservation area regulations by limiting methods and use of firearms and archery antlerless permits

Sample of Conservation Area Comments

Simplify conservation area regulations by limiting methods and use of firearms and archery antlerless permits

Yes, Simplify conservation area regulations by limiting methods and use of firearms and archery antlerless permits. Thanks you for all your hard work

Not enough information on the issue of Conservation Area Regulations and therefore no comment.

Conservation areas are extremely over-populated. High powered rifles should not be allowed on conservation areas. They should be shotgun, slug only. There are too many non-residents hunting on conservation land. There is too much drinking going on at conservation properties, especially those with lakes. Warsaw has too many people using the conservation land. Too many inexperienced, uneducated, and inconsiderate hunters on conservation land.

Miscellaneous Comments

- Chronic wasting disease (CWD)
- Season timing
- Non-resident permits
- Turkey
- Deer numbers
- Antler point restriction (APR)

Miscellaneous comments

Sample of Miscellaneous Comments

I appreciate the opportunity to submit comments on the current CWD containment area (CWD-CA) that was depicted prior to and on March 10, 2015 as per MDC publications and news releases. In discussions with MDC personnel at a recent Deer Regulations open house, it was

revealed that MDC is contemplating a 25 mile buffer around current and new CWD epicenters. I believe this to be an excessive distance to buffer for surveillance of additional CWD specimens.

Move November portion back after main rut!!! (Dec 5th)... Firearm season to wait till after rut!! I love Kansas regulations!

I believe the non-resident permits are too cheap. The cost should be based on what other states are charging. And by the way I think it is time you increase resident permits also. We are getting a great deal. Again look at what other states are charging.

We obey all Conservation Laws, even the ones that we believe are not fair to ALL other sportsmen, and these are time limits on seasons and the number of deer and turkey that can be and are taken in archery seasons. Our turkeys are in a decline in our area and have been for a while. We would like to see turkey season for archery and fall fun season closed for a period of two years.

Do not agree with any changes. I consume deer year round and feels changes will not allow me to harvest the deer I need to sustain me through the year.

Deer numbers are down. Protect the does from non-harvest and for a 3-4 year period consider an antler restriction in our area.

My opinion is that the 4 point rule has helped by getting better quality bucks and has made the hunting much safer now that hunters must verify the deer before shooting. The only change I would like to see is to start the alternate season starting Dec. 3 through Dec. 11, 2016 and the antlerless season to run for three days Dec. 17-18-19, 2016. If you didn't get your buck during the Firearms season, you have a better chance if there is a second rut.

WORDLE VISUAL SUMMARY OF ALL COMMENTS RECEIVED

Wordle provides a visual summary of every comment received. Words that appeared more frequently in the comments received are displayed more prominently (i.e., with a larger font).



APPENDICES

Appendix A. Open House Comments

Appendix B. Online Comments

Appendix C. Comments that Came to the Department Offices, Ombudsman, Regulations Committee or the Department Website from June 1, 2014-Sept. 30, 2014

Appendix D. Online Open House Web Text

Appendix E. Open House Handouts

Appendix A. Open House Comments

I agree with them but also think the season should be moved back one week.
Would prefer to still be able to take two antlered bucks during the archery season.
Strongly disagree with limiting archery any-deer to one per season. Out of state hunters should pay what it would cost to hunt deer in their state. Ok with shortening antlerless season but prefer to keep rifle at 11 days.
Non-resident fees should be reciprocal to their resident state. Charge them what they charge Mo residents to hunt out of state. Eliminate archery turkey tags and make them optional for a reduced fee vs. spring tags. All non-residents should be required to purchase Mo. general hunting tags regardless of the primary species.
Do a better job of advertising these meetings. These are a great tool and we need as many sportsmen as possible to attend them.
I want to see crossbows allowed during bow season.
Am in favor of crossbow hunting. 67 years old and it would help me! Move youth hunting for my grandkids!
Forget buck limits and simply move rifle season closer to the beginning of the season.
Forget the buck limits and simply move rifle season to December! Also, crossbows have no place during archer season other than for the honestly disabled.
What are the real intentions of MDC regarding our whitetail? Why is Missouri not considering moving firearms portion to December? How about moving archery season back to October 1 and extend until early December. Open alternative season to December then open firearms in the middle of December.
Change to where retired military don't have to buy hunting licenses.
Cut the antlerless down. We need the does for reproduction.
Move firearms season post rut. If crossbows are included they should only be added from Oct 15-Jan15. Don't reduce buck tags; it will only reduce the opportunity to hunt.
Please delay firearms season until December.
Please don't allow crossbows. All other Regulation changes make sense.
Need to triple agents in every county, they are stretched too thin. Road Hunters are increasing.
You are an excellent Conservation Dept.
Change season to post rut and cut firearms shotgun only season. Archery limited to one buck and a draw for out of state hunters.
Reduce Nov portion to 9 days. Expand youth season. Allow crossbows as a legal method.
Shorten Gun Season, Move Gun season out of the rut. Way too many weeks of firearms season.
Agree with crossbow usage during seasons proposed.

I was told the commission of four decides all matters. Ultimately our one voice is surveys from time to time. I'm unsure if our voice is being carried to the Commission. Surveys should not be our only input.
Push back rut a few years, no hunting on public land for a few years.
Do not legalize crossbows. Don't do away with the 2nd buck tag.
No Crossbows. Move rifle season out of Rut to Dec 1. Move Youth Season to October. Don't eliminate Urban zones.
I would like to see the season during Thanksgiving Holiday.
Do NOT allow Crossbows!
Maintain current Nov portion of season with reduction from 11 to 9 days. Reduce length of antlerless firearms 12 days to 3 days on first Fri in Dec. Opposed to moving late youth firearms season to Thanksgiving holiday. In favor of reducing limit of antlered deer during archery season from 2 to 1. I propose antlerless firearms season be implemented for private property only if MDC decides to not extend the proposed 3 day antlerless season. Opposed to allowing crossbows.
Reduce limit of antlered deer of total of 2 deer for entire season. Only 2 deer may be taken by rifle/muzzleloader or up to 2 deer for archery.
I am against Crossbows in Archery season. I also think youth season should be after thanksgiving only.
I Like proposed regulations. I am for Crossbows. I am for longer youth season.
Move season out of Rut. No Crossbows. Limit Youth Season. Non-Resident need to draw.
I agree with the proposed change allowing crossbows. I would like to see fees for tags lowered for hunters who own land in MO but live in neighboring states.
Yes to 9 day season. Yes to moving youth hunt late 3 day after Thanksgiving. Yes on reduce antlerless. Allow cross bows. Keep limit of archery bucks to 2.
No comments
No comments
Allow crossbows. Don't take away the 2nd buck. I don't agree with shortening the season. I am for using shotguns in Alternative Season.
Yes to Crossbows. Yes to expand late youth. I do not like the other changes. No to buck limit. That rule will take revenue away from small towns because of lack of hunting times.
Archery season should be moved forward to first weekend of Sept. Rifle season should be moved to the third weekend of Nov. Rifle Season should be shortened to 9 days. Do NOT allow Crossbows.
Likes all of the changes. Thank you for your efforts.
Shorten Firearm season to 9 days. No to Jan youth season do not put it after Thanksgiving either.

No comments
No to Crossbows. Keep buck limits as is. Eliminate the antlerless only firearms season. Move firearms season out of rut.
I agree with all the change including Cross Bows. I would like to see alternative method season not during Christmas week.
If you leave firearms season in Nov. do away with high power rifles Shotgun & muzzleloader only. Do away with telecheck. Go back to old methods with check stations.
No Crossbows allowed. Move rifle season to first Saturday in Dec. Move Youth to Oct. 1 to full week in mid-October. Leave archery 2 bucks. Let managers manage the area regulations.
Crossbow should be allowed. Older hunters have trouble with regular bows.
No comments
Crossbows will be great when its 20 degrees and you have to wear so many clothes you can't pull back a compound. I don't mind losing an archery buck tag as long as you are given a separate buck tag for city limit hunts, as other managed hunts.
I don't mind going down to one buck tag for archery season outside of the city limits but would like a separate buck tag for inside the city limits.
At my age I would like to be able to use a Cross Bow. Keep Urban zones as they are.
Yes to Cross Bow. It will bring in younger and older hunters. Yes to all other changes. MDC Agents do a great job!
The limit on antlered deer during archery should stay the same.
I Like the Crossbow option. Leave it open to at least 1 archery buck and 1 firearms buck.
Changed rifle season to Dec. 1 thru? Black powder season during rut. Youth season Friday after Thanksgiving.
No comments
Leave Archery Season the same. Change will kill more than what we save.
I am in agreement with the proposed changes with the exception of the timing of Firearms season. I would like to see the season moved back to the last week of November out of Rut.
Agree with limiting antlerless permits. Do not agree with crossbow. Prefer to leave archery regs as is.
Don't allow cross bows. It will hurt the population of deer.
I support all the changes proposed.
Do not add Crossbows. It will harm the deer population.
Please keep archery the same.
The allowance of crossbows is contradictory to the other changes as it allows more deer to be harvested. Not in favor of this. Yes on all other changes.
No Comments
Crossbows should only be used for the disabled. Buck limits should stay the same.

Crossbows are a good move. I don't like firearms reduction to 9 days. Reducing antlerless to 3 days is CRAP!
Too many deer now. Auto accidents are frequent. Limit killing of does to kill more bucks.
I feel 3 days for antlerless is not long enough. Six days would be ok with me, not everyone could get the time off to hunt.
No Crossbows during archery season unless they have a medical reason. Yes to deer limit for archery season. I'm good with the rest of the changes.
Against buck limit. Do something to protect the does.
Agree with limiting antlerless permits. Do NOT agree with Crossbow as same as compound bow. Prefer to leave archery regs "as is"
I agree with the changes in firearms seasons and youth seasons but do not agree with allowing crossbows.
Allow Crossbows in archery season. Curtail antlerless harvest and agree with one buck with rifle and one buck archery. Believe firearm season is good as scheduled.
Shoot no does.
Please move deer season back. Let's take some pressure off the rutting bucks. I'm a quail hunter so I want a couple of weeks of bird hunting early in the season prior to deer season.
Agree with Crossbows. Expand late youth. Second archery buck must stay.
I'm ok with all the changes proposed except allowing crossbows during archery season. I have been a lifelong bow hunter and rarely gun hunt. Crossbows have a place in deer hunting during alternative methods season and not bow season.
I am in agreement with all the changes EXCEPT Crossbows during regular archery season. Heard all of your arguments @ your booth and still am strongly OPPOSED. This will not improve deer hunting and is strictly a make money issue for Missouri Conservation.
Include Thanksgiving in Late Youth Season. Allow Crossbows. Allow 2 antler bucks in archery season.
All good except crossbows
No open crossbow for non-disabled. Don't reduce buck tags or reduce archery bonus. *Busch Wildlife- Offer 7 day season (2) instead of 1 (14-17 Day) so more bow hunters can participate.
Good with all proposed changes except: only 1 buck during archery. Keep 2 bucks but can kill 1 before firearms season and only 1 after firearms. Eliminate the possibility of 2 buck via archery after firearms season. Thanks for the opportunity to comment. MDC does a great job!
1. Remove the 4 pt. law; our deer herd has not increased since the regulation took place. Now we are shooting smaller deer so we have meat to eat. 2. Relise 3" spike reg. & give us some reasonable way to measure it... if it's inside the ears, it's legal.
I think you should maintain November firearm portion timing, including antlerless, and length, but limit the tags to one any and one antlerless statewide. Keep Urban Zones portion I would

much rather our hunters get that privilege than cities hiring contracts to control deer pop. I like the archery changes. Low population areas regulate. High-goo

Move the youth season after the gun season then give them an extra day or 2. Limit them to one deer, buck or doe. Limit bow hunters to one buck or one doe. 1 deer either sex for the regular gun season for a year or 2

OK reducing reason to nine days. Also ok with crossbows during archery season. Undecided on one buck limit during archery.

I disagree with using a crossbow as a legal method during archery season more deer will be killed. I think there should be a few more days on antlerless portion. Keep it as 7 days. I would to keep the firearms season at 12 days. Sat. to following Tuesday.

Allow crossbows as legal method during the archery deer and turkey season.

I strongly disagree with allowing crossbows as a legal method during archery season.

In my opinion MDC does a wonderful job with all aspects of Conservation. The proposed changes I believe will have a positive effect on our hunters and our deer population.

Reducing November portion while extending youth limits change of hunting for those who have aged out of youth age requirements. I like the limit amount of antler deer during archery.

I would like to know the true reason you want to change the rules. If you want to increase the deer population why add crossbows. If the deer population is too high now why take away 2 gun hunting days. It looks like to me you are after more money, If you sell 50,000 more archery tags if you allow crossbows that are another million in profit.

If the change will help to improve the deer herd then I am all for them.

I am a long time Missouri bow hunter. I totally agree with all MDC regulation to manage the deer herd!!! I feel very adamantly against allowing the use of crossbows as a legal weapon during the regular archery season.

4 point restriction needs to go!

Please go back to checking deer- During youth season too many shots fired and how can there be more shots fired than regular season & how can a 9 yr girl shoot a 270 and her father said she shot it- go back to utilizing check stations so the young can experience the real deal. I hear stories of people not checking deer and just to go out and get a second or third deer- that their last deer did not count because it was too small. Also make the deer processing shop ask for the telecheck #.

Anything to improve the quality of the herd. I'm just afraid a crossbow will affect the population adversely.

I am in favor of all the proposed changes except for allowing crossbows as a legal method during archery season.

I am not in favor of the crossbow. It has a rifle stock, a rifle trigger, a rifle scope, the only thing it has in common with the bow and arrow is that it shoots a projectile with a broad head. Archery started as a primitive weapons season. The crossbow or crossgun is hi-tech.

I am a long time bow hunter (>35 years) and want to say I am adamantly opposed to the consideration to allow crossbows as a legal method during archery season. I do not think they meet the "spirit" of the archery method; allow anyone to take up the weapon without practices to take a shot. Cross bows should have their own season as an alternative method.
Totally against crossbows. I would raise price on out of state hunters should be equal to what they charge us. I would shorten the number of days we can hunt with a rifle.
I agree with said changes. I hunt everything, especially quail. But with deer season going on forever, I do not hunt quail or rabbit as much.
Please do not allow crossbow method during the archery deer season!
I feel the changes are reasonable and will not impact by hunting season
I like the changes you have applied.
As an older hunter, I enjoy the urban season with its usually milder temperature in October. I would hate to see this eliminated. I would also like to see crossbows legalized for archery season. Other state results (PA) do not seem to show a dramatically increased harvest. Whatever is decided by MDC, please base the decisions on science, not emotions.
I'm for reducing antler deer from 2 to 1. I support reducing firearm season to 9 days if that means dropping off the last 2 days (Monday and Tuesday).
No comment on season length but moving antlerless season would mean taking pregnant does. Eliminating urban zones I think would not be beneficial. All for crossbows. Reducing antlered deer, no comment.
#1. Keep it 11 days for those that travel 3 hours or more so they can enjoy time in the woods without as many hunters on those Mondays and Tuesdays. Perhaps just implement a point restriction or limited doe tags in those areas of concern. #2. Not a fan of extended youth season(s). Perhaps add shotgun to the alternative methods and let the youth hunt with their relatives/family/friends then. #3. All for it. #4. No comment one way or another. #5 NO! Not at all. Bow hunters put much more time and effort into bows than crossbow hunters. Put the crossbow in with the alternative portion also or designate 1-2 weeks of hunters being able to use the crossbow during archery season. Not all season long. #6. All for it. #7. Not sure about this one. No comment.
Expand youth, Yes. Shorten to 9 days, Yes. Reduce antlerless to 3, Yes. Keep Urban zones. Do not allow crossbows. They have 30 days to use them now. Keep antler deer to 2 for archers. Not crossbow if allowed.
Drop the point restrictions
I don't agree with the crossbow change, if you want to do it to get kids involved then when they turn 17 go back to reg bows. Make youth deer season a week earlier. Get rid of deer farms and shooting preserves.
Would like crossbows to be legal for archery season. No strong opinion on other changes.

Season length to 9 days, ok. Youth should stay 2 days and be limited to antler restriction. Antlerless portion, 5 days. Urban zones elimination, ok. Crossbows, ok. Limit to 1 buck archer, should remain 2.
Take away all penned deer farms! Close them down! Move the youth season back one week or two weeks! Move the general season back one week later so the bucks, big bucks, rut with not too much pressure! Make people aware of the bills by the House and Senate to take away the 0.8 percent tax!
Agree with everything with a few exceptions. As a biologist, I understand shortening and reducing season/limits. I do not think crossbows should be allowed during the archer season. Also, I believe the youth portion needs to follow all regulations for the rest of the seasons (like antler point restrictions, tag limits)
As an avid hunter who spends many hours in the woods I have noticed a seemingly significant decrease in the amount of deer. Thus reducing rifle season to 9 days seems a good move. However, expanding youth season I think would have a negative impact. In fact, I think an even better move would be to get rid of either the early or the late youth season. Also, elimination of the urban portion will not help the majority of the deer herd throughout the state. Something to consider helping the herd to limit or stop all antlerless permits in the Ozark regions. This would also apply to archer. Limiting bucks will not help the herd either. More bucks will not make more deer but more does will, so limit the number of does that are taken. Archery hunting has become a huge industry and I am sure the crossbow companies would like to be more a part of it but I am very adamantly opposed to allowing them beyond what is already allowed. It will put thousands more people in the woods and thus thousands more deer killed every year. The early youth season allows many dishonest people to hunt under their child's name. It stirs up the deer and gives an unfair advantage. I think ending the early youth season is a good idea. Please take my comments and ideas into consideration. Thank you.
Against crossbows - against reducing buck to one for archer season - for most everything else.
No comments were left - page blank
I support 9 days instead of 11, changing late youth season from January to November. I support raising price of out of state tags. I support lowering the days of antlerless season. I do not support crossbows for everyone or 1 buck instead of 2 for archery season. I support eliminating urban zone. I support the timing of November portion. I support simplifying conservation regulations. Overall I believe MDC does a very good job managing our outdoor sports.
Wish it was for 2015
Slug guns during alternative hunt
By moving the youth season you are going to kill more deer which is a contradiction of your motive to increase or sustain the deer herd. I am opposed to crossbows during archery season. Why should I as a longtime bow hunter have to lose a buck so you can get more hunters involved in archery season with the use of a crossbow? Also, non-resident hunters should pay what it would cost a Missouri hunter to hunt in their state. We are very cheap!

Do not eliminate the urban zone portion.
I believe that the rifle portion should be reduced if not eliminated for any number of seasons. I feel that Missouri does not have an accurate idea of the whitetail population. Poaching is a clear problem. Too few agents. The youth portion in general is Dad's chance at the first bucks. I would place any youth in the general season. Telecheck is a failure! I know of numerous deer in my area that never get checked in!!
I trust your decisions wholeheartedly and applaud any and all decisions you see fit for the future.
For now we need to reduce seasons and do not lengthen any youth season. They can hunt more during regular season. Crossbows should be with doctor certificate. For a 2 year period test 1 antlered deer. Should limit amount of does during archery.
No crossbows in archery season. No expansion of youth portion. Reduce doe tags in archery season to include landowners.
I hunt Wisconsin and people flocked to get crossbows. Some of these people should never have been in the woods with a weapon like that (loaded). Offer a 2-3 week crossbow season after our firearms season. Don't limit archers to 1 buck! It's tough enough!
I prefer not to have crossbows as a legal method during regular archery deer and turkey season.
No comments were left - page blank
No to crossbows! Move the rifle season to early November outside the rut. Remove rifle season for 1 year.
Return alternative season to actual muzzleloaders, shorten it by some days and switch those days to flintlock smooth bores only. Take a portion of archery to traditional bows, no compounds or crossbows.
Not sure limiting archery to one buck will increase the number of mature bucks so I do not agree with it.
I think considering dropping the 4 pt. law due to shorter season. I would prefer to keep the length of gun season the full 12 days.
Definitely opposed to all firearms season changes. Similarly I am opposed to all archer season changes. Opposed to conservation area changes.
Definitely opposed to all firearms season changes. Similarly I am opposed to all archer season changes. Opposed to conservation area changes.
I think these changes are practical and also beneficial. I am only able to hunt a few days during the November Portion, so my opportunities are limited, but these changes to the system are workable for me. They are helpful in simplifying area regulations.
I'm against shortening the regular firearms season. It's short enough as is and the two days can't account for many deer that late in the season. It's easy to miss part of Missouri's short season due to work and family conflicts. I wish the season was longer than it is.
I think the non-resident fee should mirror the state they come from for non-resident hunters.

Against allowing crossbows for anyone to use. I like the one any deer tag for archery. All the firearm changes sound good.
Urban deer season shortening will it include St. Stanislaus CA?
Everything sounds good
I like all the changes
I'm against crossbow use. If it does go through, make it its own tag so we could keep track of hunters and kills.
Make Caney Mtn a real primitive hunt, longbows & flintlocks. Crossbows to 60+ hunters.
I would rather youth season stay before regular season but like expanding it to 3 days. Disagree on reducing length of antlerless portion. Very much in favor of allowing crossbows in archery season
I support any changes proposed by MDC
Please give us crossbows in archery season. The arguments are empty and outdated. If not statewide, at a minimum in 'the urban zone'. Need it as a management tool, especially if urban zone season is eliminated.
Why reduce to antlerless season but still sell unlimited doe tags? Only crossbows in archer season for hunters with disabilities. Reducing to one antlered deer in archery season is okay. Don't see benefit of reducing length of the season to 9 days, believe most of the deer have already been taken by that time that are going to be taken. Also, this time may be beneficial in years of bad weather.
Is there a way to share feedback gathered at this point with the public? I'm interested in hearing the ideas other hunters have.
I am against crossbows in the regular archer season. It's ok if you're handicapped.
I'm ok with most changes. If crossbow passes the number of hunters will increase. To offset this limit the number of does that can be taken in archery season. Please clarify that urban hunting is ok just not with firearms. Too many deer in town, not enough out.
Could change timing to a week earlier. 9 days are fine. No on the rest of the changes for firearms. Archery - "very" against all changes. PS, need to take 4-point restriction out of archery!
Reduce length of gun season. Reduce season lengths gun season - late season. Allow crossbows. Reduce limit of antlered deer.
Not much except thanks and keep up the good work.
Archery season same, allow shotguns during alternative methods season and include youth to allow greater opportunity to hunt in possibly safer conditions (reduced range for accidents). Firearms deer 9 day is fine, antlerless 3 day season is fine. Thank you for your amazing leadership. You have my respect!
All is great except using crossbow in archery season.
Only handicap (crossbow) hunters should use crossbows during the archery season. Don't reduce antlered limit to 1

Offer consideration to non-resident land owners. Non-Resident fees should be reciprocal. Crossbows get gun season and alternative season, that's enough.
Firearms - Maintain timing of the November portions, Ok. Youth - Ok. Reduce antlerless, Ok. Archery- Reduce the limit to one. No crossbows. Conservation Areas - Keep it simple!
No crossbows for archery season. Current archer regs allow you to purchase archery tags without hunter's safety, a safety class is needed. Since the arrow is held cocked, it does not qualify as archery. I believe a separate season the week before rifle as a compromise is the solution or after. I personally do not enjoy rifle season and prefer to just bow hunt.
Leave the November portion the same length. Move the youth season back to October 20-21st. Leave the late season youth where it's at. Move the muzzleloader season back to the first weekend in December where it was years ago and push the antlerless season in late December. Do not eliminate the urban portion. Allow crossbows as legal method during deer and turkey season. Keep the limit of antlered deer during archery season the same.
I would like to be able to archery hunt with a crossbow. I think this would be a good change. If you are going to change the antlerless portion, I would like you to move the muzzleloader season earlier in December, maybe back where it used to be.
I look forward to the urban season, I would hate to see it disappear.
I hunt north Jefferson County; the urban season is GREAT, keep! Crossbows will be nice.
Season is not long enough. Should not be shorter. I bow hunt. Two bucks are always better than one. Don't have youth hunting with me. Saw a lot of bucks in my back field, none legal.
I believe the one archery any deer proposal would lower participation for archers who kill buck early season they won't want to hunt late season. I'm not convinced that many archers kill two bucks.
Open archery season to crossbows as well. Please give a phone number to those without an e-mail.
If you allow crossbows during archer season, the limit on antlered deer should be one. If you don't allow crossbows during archery season, it should stand as 2 antlered deer. With a crossbow where the string is held back it would be easier to shoot more deer. Since that's the case, only 1 antlered deer should be allowed.
We don't need more crossbows. We have the best now. Let's don't mess up. Check other states that have done this, it's not good.
Compared to other states, our non-resident fees are too low. Telecheck with the app. Why allow more hunters with cross bows? Crossbows should require orange. Crossbows are unsafe. They must be fired to unload it. Move gun season to after rut.
No impact 1 deer or 2 for archery. Crossbows should not be legal in archery season.
I don't like the crossbow thought at all. If you're not physically able to hunt with a compound or recurve then it's ok but not everyone.
I feel unlimited antlerless tags in the past have contributed mainly to lower deer harvest.

I like the 2 buck limit for bow. I did not realize that is a problem.
Do NOT allow crossbows. Allowing crossbows as alternative method would not bring in younger hunters and if older hunters have problems drawing a compound bow they can get a doctor's note. Do not change regulations pertaining to crossbows. I don't care what other states do pertaining to their hunting regulations. Missouri did not become one of the best conservation programs in the country by following what other states allow. I don't believe reducing the number of archery permits will help Missouri's deer herd. Leave the regulations pertaining to archery hunting as they currently are. Putting more restrictions on antlered bucks, will not help anything. Do not change conservation regulations pertaining to firearms and archery on conservation area lands. I haven't harvested any deer or turkey in over ten years due to the regulations currently in place. Changing our rules and regulations to benefit industry and for-profit influences is an extreme mistake, To take away the responsibility and authority for managing our states wildlife and changing the definition of what deer are (wildlife to livestock) is ludicrous.
I don't like cutting off the last two days of November firearms deer season. Very few deer are killed those last few days and it helps retired people a little longer to get one. I also don't like crossbows during archery season. Its fine for handicapped people but it's almost like a rifle not sportsmanship.
I am in support of all proposed changes. The reduction in archery limits to 1 antlered deer is way overdo.
It is not equitable to move the second youth season to November. If this is done, this disadvantages other hunters because youth get to hunt before the rifle season and again before the muzzle-loader/alternative season. If youth hunters get special treatment, why don't other "special interest" groups such as women, veterans, etc...?
OK- But need to be able to kill more does during gun season in St. louis Country.
Changes are good. Would still like 2 bucks with bow & like the idea of crossbow for archery. The rest of the changes don't bother me. My dad would hunt again with a crossbow. That would be nice.
Extended youth hunt is limiting time for hunters that can only squeeze in weekend hunt; youth is possibly not being used appropriately by supervising adults.
My main concern is with the Urban Zone elimination. I strongly oppose this change. While it may "simplify" the rules, it eliminates Four days of opportunity to hunt. I am fortunate enough to hunt in an area of the urban zone and have been able to harvest deer every year for the last 7 years during this hunt. Eliminating this hunt will not reduce costs, only opportunity. Please do not eliminate the urban zone hunt. On a personal note I plan to use urban zone hunting to teach my daughters our responsibility as conservationists to harvest game.
I don't like muzzleloading season because it falls on Christmas week. Family is home for holiday only can hunt last weekend. I would like firearms season to stay the same in rut 9 day. I would like to be able to crossbow hunt for archery hunt, expand late youth portions to 3 days, antlerless

to 3 days, and eliminate urban zones. I support crossbows because I am 63 this year and could not pull back compound bow. I had the pull weight changed to 60 lbs. I am in favor of crossbow.
Leave November season the same, keep urban zones, keep archery to bows, keep archery to 2 bucks.
Change alternative weapons season back to primitive weapons. Make Caney Mountain hunt Flintlocks and longbows.
I am in favor of the proposed changes and feel that they will improve the late youth portion time and will not negatively impact my normal hunting season.
I am strongly opposed to crossbows during regular archery season. Also would like to leave everything as it were.
Reduce the buck limit to 1 is good idea. Crossbows without limit on does is wrong.
I am opposed to the inclusion of crossbows into bow season. I have been bow hunting since I was discharged from the military in 1973. I use longbow and recurve and was disturbed when the regulations concerning compounds were relaxed. I am a USA archery instructor and have been teaching children from age 7 to 18. The last 3 years I have taught 60 plus kids. The want to learn the old way. These children are buying recurves. Today I stopped at Garden Mountain and looked at crossbows. They come with scopes. These scopes are similar to sniper scopes. They call them Holdover Scope when in fact the reticle is no different from a scope with bullet drop compensation. The original spirit and intent of the bow season was to have a season that was a little more difficult. You claim you need to cut back on tags, yet by including crossbows you basically are adding a gun to the bow season. Those of us who have supported your department over the years are appalled with the change. Once upon a time the MDC listened to the home grown organizations in their state. Now it appears you are listening to the money! The MDC used to be a great model to other states. Maintain the spirit that was prevalent when they first brought back our wildlife. It is hard to shoot a bow which makes it rewarding. You will have wanna-be hunters who purchase this equipment the day before the season. If you can shoot a gun, you can shoot a crossbow. Leave crossbows in the regulation where they are today.
The checking deer procedure I feel has led to great increase in poaching and if it is not dealt with it will only increase with new regs.
I think the considered changes are a good thing and appropriate. The great job being done by the Department.
I would like to have one weekend in November without rifle hunting so I would feel more comfortable bird hunting with dogs on North Missouri public land. Keep up the good work! Love you guys!
Why are you considering all the changes?
Keep buck season 11 days. Keep 1 buck per firearm tag. Keep 1 buck before and 1 buck after firearm season for archery. Make 1 doe per county hunted archery and 1 doe per county firearms.

Think about stopping feed and attractants (people use this) coming in from CWD states (does this spread CWD?) Thank you!
We must not try to fix an archery season that is not broken!! 38 days for crossbows is more than ample. For every antlered buck in Penn. Taken in 2012 by a true bowhunter, 4.7 were taken by cross bowers.
Keep youth season before regular season. Yes to crossbows during archery season. No to reduction of antlerless season length.
Your Comment
No Crossbows in archery season. NO shortening of the firearms season. If need to reduce harvest then reduce bag limits. We have plenty of youth season season, do not lengthen
Make all of the changes you want. Until gun season is moved out of the rut we will never see Missouri's true potential for big bucks
Yes for everything except for crossbows. Thank you for offering this and several other public forums. MDC is doing a great job.
I agree with all of the proposed changes-except allowing crossbow and reducing the limit of antlered deer during archery. Potentially allow crossbow after gun season. Potentially reduce the age to give exemption to seniors so they can use crossbow.
I agree with most of the changes except maintaining the starting date of firearm season. I think that moving back the starting date by one week would allow more does to be bred that week by adult bucks. This would be a more sound/management plan.
I don't agree with reducing archery bucks to 1. With the rule now of only 1 buck before rifle season I feel this is sufficient. I don't think Bowhunters have that much effect on the buck population
No to crossbows during the archery season. Why expand the youth season? Won't this offset the deer kill reduction in 2 days!
NO! NO! NO! Do not reduce the season! Yes-expand youth season. NO-do not reduce the antlerless season! No-Do not eliminate the urban zones. No real opinion on crossbows-except it makes no sense to liberalize this while cutting all else. Change regs in part of the state needed (i.e.-blue tongue) not all. I hunt where deer herd is rapidly on the increase
Crossbows-ok for those under 16 years or over 60. Definition of a legal crossbow? 1 buck in archery-ok with 2 bucks max by any method. Only one in gun. Only one archer prior to firearms! Start a promotion to reduce button buck kill (not a law).
Not in favor of adding additional weapons (crossbow) to the archery season. Crossbows are already legal 42 of deer season-no one uses them they are not bows! If you need to entertain a crossbow user group (there is none in MO), give them their deer-sell a tag-keep track of hunter numbers actually wing the crossbows instead of changing structure on a whim.
I cannot see how answering the problem of too few adult bucks is to issue an unlimited # of tags to gun hunters and non-residents who wish to buy a crossbow and kill year and a half old bucks

the days before gun season while they are "hanging stands". It seems like bowhunters are being punished for a problem gun hunters created. They get two buck tags and we only get one. Stop crossbows. Move gun season out of the rut.
No to the crossbows. There should still be 2 any deer for reg bow season, youth season 2nd should be a little sooner when it's warmer. Length of rifle season should remain long for the people that work on weekends.
No to Crossbows. No bow hunters I have talked with agree with this. Will create more unethical shots.
What happens to alternate weapons season if you use crossbows during archer seasons? The use of crossbows should be limited to hand drawn. How is harvest reduction analyzed when you factor in antler point restrictions?
No crossbows in archery season. All else is open to conversation.
Absolutely no crossbows in archery season. Do not take away 2 buck limit for archers.
I am against the proposed changes. Please see https://www.causes.com/actions/1776744
Not enough room to explain why I think this is a bad idea (especially crossbows during archery season) so I will submit an email.
I don't feel the need to allow crossbow's during archery except for people with handicaps or over 65 years old. I feel the antlerless portion should be reduced but to 4 or 6 days to allow everyone an opportunity to hunt does without taking much time off work. Also, resident permit cost should decrease with days to hunt decreased.
Have no problem with changes, as an older hunter (64) I like to opportunity to use a crossbow due to strength problems. Keep up the good work MDC.
Crossbows in archery season go against the reasons for limiting other seasons. Allowing crossbows does not allow access to young/old it changes archery definition. There are options for young hunters other than crossbows. Exemptions are available for older/handicapped hunters.
Opposed to 1 antlered archery deer. Would support limiting doe tags for a few years. Support the 4 points on one side restriction. Support eliminating a special urban zone season.
Please keep the urban zone portion. I live in Greene County and there is definitely a problem with an abundance of deer in parts of Springfield. The Urban Zone portion helps to reduce the deer population so they don't get hit by vehicles. The MDC is doing a great job. Please keep it up. Thank you!
The only thing I have is the point restriction. I am a meat hunter not for the horns.
Seven day gun season followed by 7 day muzzle load season back to back - please move muzzle to Nov.
Reduction to the 3 days for the antlerless season. Would prefer a compromise to 7 days due that wind and weather can quickly take away most opportunities for a successful harvest. Open opportunities with the 7 days. Personally like the 11-13 day provided. Thank you!

I am opposed to opening archery season to crossbows and reducing allowable archery bucks from two to one. Also move firearm season out of the rut.
I am opposed to opening archery season to crossbows and reducing allowable archery bucks from 2 to 1 as I believe it will have no significant management impact and reduce hunter opportunity. I believe the MDC should regulate the firearms season by moving it out of the peak rut and shorten the season.
Move current firearms to late Nov/Dec and reduce to 9 days. Expand youth late season but combine it with early youth season. After Thanksgiving. Do not allow crossbows during archery season. Keep archery antlered deer tags as present.
Would still like to see restrictions on the Crossbow hunting to be to the disabled.
Not in favor of crossbows during archery season. It would open the season up to too many hunters. I would like to see a black powder weekend sometime before gun season.
I like the three day youth season.
I like the 3 day youth season
Like that the season for archery is only allowing one antlered tag. Would like to see in the future firearm season pushed back a week.
Push rifle season back to Dec. like our neighboring states. A two buck limit should allow 2nd tag to be an any season tag. Absolutely NO crossbows during regular archery season. I liked in Nebraska when crossbows were implemented, it ruined the sport of archery. Shooters were unethical, irresponsible and disrespectful to fellow hunters and animals.
Do not eliminate second archery buck tag. Allow crossbows during archery. Move firearm deer season out of rut. Allow year round coyote trapping.
I do not think crossbows should be allowed during regular archery season. They take no skill to shoot, will encourage trespassing and illegal activities because of the quiet shot, increases deer pressure, discourages people from learning to shoot a regular compound bow and not help manage the deer herd. Rifle season should be pushed back to December and not placed during the peak rut. If taken down to two tags, the second should be an any season tag.
Agree with all firearms season changes. Agree with allowing crossbows during archery season. Don't know enough about Conservation Area regs to offer pro or con.
If you are trying to improve the deer herd numbers why in the world are you looking at adding Crossbows. Everything else makes total sense, this does not. Crossbows=more hunters at a high success rate=more deer killed. Please NO crossbows.
I think the crossbow regulations are correct the way they are right now. They should only be used for handicap people.
I am totally against crossbows during archery season. I am against reducing the limit of antlered deer during archery season.

I think we should move the timing of the firearms season outside of the rut. Length changes are okay. Allowing crossbows as legal archery method will increase harvest too much. Disabled shooters with permission would be ok.

You all have all the numbers from the telecheck so you do what the numbers say to achieve the goals you all desire. Don't allow crossbow for archers unless they are disabled.

More rifle season out of the rut if you want to increase deer numbers. Archery hunters killing deer isn't the problem. We had 150,000 antlered deer harvested by rifle hunters this season alone. Don't punish hard working bow hunters because rifle hunters kill too many deer. Leave crossbow to special permits only. They will ruin archery season and deer numbers.

I love the proposed changes.

Extend youth season.

Please allow crossbows as a legal method for deer hunting. Reduce the number of archery any-deer permits.

No Crossbows. Elimination of 2nd archery tag.

I am not for the antlerless changes should apply to the entire state.

Close all cervid enclosures immediately.

Allowing crossbows is my major concern. In other states that have added them as a legal method, what did this add to the total archers harvest numbers? If the goal is to reduce harvest numbers, won't this detract from that? Thank you.

I am for reducing the number of antler deer killed. Would be okay with only one buck per combined seasons.

Move deer season to the end of November allow baiting.

No strong feelings either way. A little surprised by the restricted seasons since I haven't seen decrease in numbers where I hunt (Wright County) Wouldn't mind seeing antler point restrictions state wide.

Statewide point restriction after gun season.

Funny that you went from almost any amount of does to a few. We need double fences on deer farms for control of CWD. Why eliminate the urban hunt? Do Not agree with Crossbow regulation.

Not enough time here for details. No crossbows in archery season. They are not bows. No to reduction in any deer archery permits. Only 3% of bowhunters kill 2 bucks. How does this change realistically affect numbers?

Would like to see alternative methods moved earlier so don't fall in Christmas week. Limit doe tags for bow, at least some, so hunter has to be a little selective.

I think you should leave the archery season like it is. No crossbows. If you want to manage deer take away from rifle hunters, move the season to Dec. Antler point restriction.

No on crossbows during archery season.

All for crossbows - great for economy. Allows older archery to keep hunting in the fields. Most states have gone crossbow. Not for extending youth season. Only one buck per weapon choice.
Keep gun season same length or longer. Four Point statewide. I like the new youth timing proposal Allow crossbows in a short season like one half of archery. Keep bag limits the same in archery. Maybe eliminate antlerless season to compensate. I think the 4 point has increased overall numbers.
The antlered deer numbers should be 1 for firearms and 1 for archery. Maybe the firearms season should follow thanksgiving to increase the % of bucks to mate successfully.
Not in favor of reducing length of season. Not in favor of archery season changes.
Allow crossbows during archery season. No on reducing limit of antlered deer during archery season.
I think allowing crossbows during archery season is unfair.
Do not allow crossbows unless medically necessary. IT's ok to shorten the November portion. It's ok for the youth season. It's ok to reduce antlerless. It's ok on urban zones. I'm ok reducing bow kills to one temporary. Please simplify conservation areas.
I think the change is a good idea. Maybe open more than just two does to be killed.
Don't extend youth season. Don't let crossbows be used during bow season. Shortening two days off of firearms season good idea.
Don't extend second portion of youth season. Don't allow crossbows during bow season. I think it's a good idea to shorten rifle season two days.
Allow crossbows but without scopes. Reduce antlered deer to one but allow bonus permits in all conservation areas.
I hope to have less days on doe season, the deer population is too low over the last two years
Generally favorable crossbow reg. in particular will help older hunters. Reduction in antlerless permits probably not necessary in Ozark region.
change deer youth season to Oct when out of school
Simplification by eliminating urban portions is agreed with. Not sure that the present crossbow restriction to disability should be revised. I've seen some video of shooting crossbows @ 125 yards at deer 3D targets with high accuracy and penetration. That is much farther than I would shoot at one with my old bow (40-45 yd. max)
very well organized and professional
I don't think reducing the limit of antlered deer during archery season will solve anything. I would suggest a point limitation.
I support a longer and sooner late youth season. I support the range of the length of the firearm season to nine days from eleven.
Would like to see rifle season stay eleven days not in favor of crossbows for everyone, I do think youth and elderly is fine. Not in favor of 1 buck during bow season

I fully support the change in late youth season! I fully support a crossbow added as a legal method! I oppose reducing November portion from 11 to 9 days. I oppose antler permit reduction from 2 to 1, this allows cull bucks removed.
I personally do not think they should legalize crossbows during the archery season because in my mind it will increase road hunting they are silent, accurate, and can be shot out of a window
Restricting the number of days will effectively make it harder for people to get in the woods; reduce the limit to 1 doe (total) if you must, but provide the days for families to participate in one of our great traditions.
I like all of the proposed changes. "Good ideas"
Need to allow the use of crossbows
All changes are informed by science based facts and MDC is to be complimented. CONCERN:- CWD-24 known cases now-how many in 20 years-if using a multiplier formula it's getting serious 520,000 hunters in 2014-times 1- =over 5 million hunters. 52 plus or minus captive deer ranches where CWD is found. State legislators need to make CWD a priority for our state-find the best solution.
Don't like the use of crossbows during bow season, does not make sense, you want more hunters in the woods, but want the deer kill to decrease. Like the idea of shortening the season for firearms. Do not like limiting bow season to one buck
I would like to see crossbows allowed
Move Deer Season Up 3 weeks. Allow crossbows-Non-resident fees are fine-Deer Herd is too small in Scott County
If the deer population is currently at or below the population goal, why would you want to let everyone use crossbows to further deplete the population? Have you ever considered a split season around a couple of weekends so more people can enjoy them? My wife and I started out just taking one deer between us and usually were bucks-our neighbor did the same thing but the last three years we have seen less
Against use of crossbows during the regular season. Would like to see a split season. This part of MO is short on deer. Population declining.
Keep firearms same amount of days. Reduce the number of permits during the archery season, 2 to 1 (any-deer permit). Reduce number of nuisance permits given to landowners and farmer. Too many take over their limit and don't care if it is a buck or a doe. Crossbow hunting in archery season is a good thing.
If the deer population is currently at or below the population goal, why would you want to let everyone use crossbows to further deplete the population? Have you ever considered a split season around a couple of weekends so more people can enjoy them? M
If the deer population is down, I am in favor of cutting back on the gun season, and the antlerless portion. However, by increasing the youth season, only one buck and allowing crossbow will hurt the population. You are doing 2 things to help and 3 things to hurt

I prefer 11 day Nov. being a farmer it gives me more time and I think it would take pressure off of my crops.

Please do not reduce any deer permits from 2 to 1. Instead make a restriction of 4 points minimum on one side for one tag, call it a "trophy" tag. I am ok with the reduction of Nov. gun portion but how about October short muzzleloader season=3 days?

I am all for youth hunting but I think a lot of big bucks are being wounded or being harvested by adults during the youth season now. I also feel that some adults use their youth tags during the regular season. I think if additional time is allowed it should be after the firearms season. I think a lot of crossbows are being used illegally now. I think crossbows should have a short season not the entire time of the regular archery season. I also believe it is a money push by the big shops. I don't have an issue with the rest of the changes.

The 2 day off of firearms season will mess up hunters that cannot schedule vacation the first week. Not a lot of hunters have this problem but dropping the 2 days shouldn't affect the deer population much either?? 2 archery tags=1 any deer and 1 antlerless??? Doesn't say but everyone assume this is right!!

I think crossbow season should be legal through bow season.

Limit archery buck permits to 1 only.

Crossbows are fine with me. Do away with antlerless season altogether. Two bucks is okay but make it only one with rifle or 2 with bow.

Crossbow - NO - maybe youth only. One Buck - NO - 2 Buck - accumulative archery/firearm I would agree. Youth season - I'm okay with but January food sources are dynamite. Reduce length of rifle season. YES to move to December.

Do not allow crossbows. Do not shorten the hunting season.

I feel that legalization of crossbows will cause a decline in our deer numbers. It will open bow hunting up to everyone that's not a bad thing, but being a successful bow hunter is an achievement. Crossbows will defeat the challenge. As far as reducing the antlered deer in archery season does not matter to me, personally 1 good buck with a bow is enough.

I think taking 2 days out of rifle is pointless because you said there is hardly anything taken and some people who work certain jobs only get to hunt these days. Even if they don't kill something they get to be in the woods. I think that removing one buck tag on archery shouldn't be done because some people see a lot more bucks than does and just want to fill the freezer.

I do not support shortening firearms hunting season. I hunted on both of those days last year. If there is not strong reasoning to shorten the season, I do not believe it should happen.

I've shot a bow for 44 years. It takes dedication and patience to learn the skills it takes to kill a deer at 20 yards with a traditional bow. It seems to me, we as a society, only make it easier for anybody to get into this sport. A crossbow, to me, is not even a bow! String gun is a more accurate word. We need "better" hunters, not more hunters! Crossbows sound like a bad idea to me. Sounds like to me you guys have folded under political pressures.

Agree with most changes.

I believe youth should be from 10-15 years old. I believe you are messing up making crossbows to everyone. It should remain for disabled hunters. I would be for a 3 point or 4 point restriction rule.
Discontinue the antlerless season to allow for the antlerless tags in the firearm season.
No crossbows and anything to help youth hunting that is very important.
I feel crossbows should not be allowed unless handicapped. Keep November portion 10 days.
Agree with all proposed changes. I think the use of crossbows would be a good addition to the sport. I also believe that the other changes would benefit the overall deer population.
Reduce length of firearm season. Ideally 2 separate seasons (3 day & 4 day each including weekends with a week in between.) Allow crossbows for all hunters (hoping to introduce my daughter to archery in the future. Must reduce limit of antlered archery deer to 1. Have to find a proven way to the Number of mature bucks.
Allow crossbows. Recue to 9 days.
I strongly agree on all the 2016-2017 deer changes.
Agree on Crossbows.
I feel that taking the two day's away from rifle season away from people that do not get to hunt much because not enough harvest time in that amount of days.
Leave the Crossbows the way it is, by permit only. Length of firearms season being reduced is okay. Timing of season could be later. One archery buck is tolerable, but should vary by Region.
I consider myself a serious archery hunter, and support any effort to benefit the deer herd. The only proposed change I am against is the crossbow method being acceptable for archery season. I think that an age limit should be put in place rather than just opening it up to anyone. I think the crossbow proposal will result in an overflow of inexperienced hunters flooding the woods during archery season, resulting in more pressure on the deer and more wounded unrecovered deer.
No crossbows allowed to be used during archery season unless physically disabled. Makes no sense to reduce permits from 2 to 1 and then allow crossbows to be used. Archery is a skill. No skill is needed for crossbows.
Keep up the efforts on CWD containment. MDC is leading the nation in this regard. I'm okay with most other suggested changes. Not sure about crossbows, though. I'm 61 and can still hunt with a vertical bow.
Keep November portion at 11 days. Okay on youth season changes. Okay on antlerless portion to 3 days. No on Crossbows used during archery season. Okay on limit to 1 buck in archery season.
Maintain the timing of Nov portion and reduce to 9 days. Expand the late youth portion to 3 days. Reduce the length of antlerless portion to three days. Eliminate the urban zones portion. No to crossbows. Ok to reducing the limit of antlered deer during the archery season to one.

Okay to simplify conservation area regulations by limiting methods and use of firearms and archery antlerless permits.
I am concerned about the general length of deer season. I am an avid deer hunter and I am a landowner (270 acres). I am also a birdwatcher, hiker, and backpacker and I feel that the combined seasons sometimes limit the outdoors for these types of activities for me and many others that are not deer hunters. In particular I would like to see youth season limited to one weekend. Finally, I want MDC to know that I think they do an excellent job of managing our forestry, fish and wildlife resources.
1. Contain CWD more important than anything. 2. Leave rifle season alone. 3. Youth are the future - Thanksgiving weekend is great. 4. Antlerless doesn't affect us down here. Do what's right for the north. 5. Crossbows - anyone with physical needs can already get a license. Make it available to those 60 and older without Dr. Note. NO to anyone younger and healthy. 6. I am for keeping the 2 buck tags. November 17 thru January 15 is a long time and I hunt a lot. IT would take the reason away if I can't at least hunt for a buck. If you have to do something make after the rifle a 4 point restriction? I'm a buck hunter and don't shoot if it's smaller than what I have on wall. It very difficult to get a mature buck late season. If you stop 2nd tag you just make criminals out of hunters. 7. Be careful with public land. It is the only opportunity some have to hunt. It's a tough balancing act. 8. Kid's should be able to shoot anything at all times. Sixteen and under. 9. Coyote-bobcat should be legal beginning Sept. 15. 10. Cougar should be legal year round. 11. You should fight to control all deer populations in the state. Wild and penned. Use every method to gain back captive deer. If you think there is a decrease in population now - CWD and 40 % decimation is in our future.
In favor of all changes. Consider an earlier youth season (first weekend in October) for favorable weather.
No, on crossbows for archery. Yes on late youth hunt. Yes, on reduce archery hunters to 1 antlered deer.
Do not agree with crossbow inclusion. Issues with timing of rifle seasons.
I agree with antlerless portion of changes.
Do not agree with any of the changes.
I see no reason to reduce the length of November portion by 2 days, while harvest maybe lower on those days. It still offers an opportunity to harvest a deer. Not everyone has the opportunity to take vacation during opening weekend and the 2nd weekend is maybe the only time the individuals can get off.
No crossbows, longer youth portion and against reduction of November portion.
Don't like the crossbow part. I feel the crossbow should only be used for handicapped people. I also feel deer hunting should be kept the same.
I think the crossbow option should be put in and allowed.
Let the season as it is except add one day to youth season.

Any person who can shoot a firearm can shoot a crossbow it takes years of practice to become a real bow hunter.
Firearm season needs to go after Thanksgiving weekend.
I am for the crossbows because of my age. I would like to see least antlerless time. No on restrictions of 1 buck.
The only regulation I have an issue with is the allowing of crossbows. For those that do not have the ability can get a permit for crossbow. I would be ok with an age restriction to allow younger hunters to gain interest in the sport.
Would like to see crossbows allowed.
Statewide antler restrictions need to be in place.
I would be in favor of allowing crossbows as a legal method during archery season. That would allow my father, who does not currently bowhunt the flexibility to spend more time in the blind with my son and I.
In favor of shortening the season.
I do not think everyone needs to be in the woods during archery season if they cannot take the time and effort to use a regular bow then go during riffle or alternative method season. I do not feel a
I don't agree with the crossbow rule. We need to shut off the doe tags. When herd was low, we protected the does and the herd grew. We started killing the does and the herd shrank. Stop trying to re-invent the wheel.
Being a hunter and landowner I have noticed a large amount of deer. Would like to see the 2 extra days (Monday & Tuesday) stay with the season - these are my last chance days. "YES" to allowing a crossbow during archery season.
Please allow crossbows.
Most sound ok except allowing crossbow during archery. Reduction in doe permits not needed. Deer numbers in my area remain high despite HD two years ago. I fear the deer herd will rebound to unmanageable #s.
Run a campground, don't like shortened season.
Population is too heavy in our area. These changes would compound the problem.
I agree with the antlerless and youth portion changes. I would like to see the regular season taken out of the rut altogether. I believe this would increase the buck to doe ratio thus improving HERD health.
No crossbow during regular bow season.
Please reduce the doe seasons.
I trust the MO Conservation Commission and MDC with using their professional approach with this. Thanks for all that you do to protect our wildlife, fish and natural resources. Thanks for having the open houses to get public open.

Agree with all of them but would like to see landowners and the disabled included in a 2 day early season maybe with the youth portion.
OK with all regulation changes. I do question continuing with targeted shooting in zones with a positive CWS test, given the 2 new zones and the inevitability that there will be more each (?) year.
9 day rifle season fine but move it to the first week of December. Youth seasons good, I like Thanksgiving weekend. Leave archery season alone with 2 turkeys, 2 bucks. Have separate tag for crossbow and only one buck for crossbow hunters and 2 turkeys. Raise out of state permit prices! Put it to a vote on regulation changes, ask hunters to fill out regulation vote when getting surveys.
Not enough! Should have started this year. Why did you wait - you lost half of the deer population in 2 years.
I operate a hunting lodge/outfitting company and speak for a very large number of in state and out of state hunters. We "agree" with the proposed firearm season changes and archery changes that are under consideration. We want a large healthy herd and a shorter season and limiting antlerless kills will help greatly. Will discuss further if someone will contact me at 660-216-4431. Thank you.
Start any deer season about Nov 1.
Deer season needs to be shorter with less tags given out.
We set out 5 acres of corn 1/4 milo had good yield but it was gone by Dec. Deer numbers were down slightly but still reasonably high even after being hit hard (in our area) with EHD. Personally I've never harvested over 1 buck in an archery season. "I hunt mature animals" but would like the chance. Allowing crossbows reduces the aesthetic value of archery hunting. Much easier to master, much less movement, inherently more accurate greatly reducing the acquired woodsmanship.
Ok all but eliminate urban zone portion
I believe it's too short of time. We hunt for the meat. Deer is our main source of meat throughout winter. Would also like to note that Mr. Hartwig was very descriptive and very helpful in explaining to me in a way where I myself could understand. As for the meat, not only would it decrease the chance of getting meat for my family, I know other families that cannot afford the store bought meat. So they also depend on the deer meat for food as well. Maybe a petition may need to be done to see how many want the old way compared to the new way. Thank you.
1. Timing and 9 days - good tradition and planning important to many later over Thanksgiving causes trouble in families. 2. Youth season expansion: good idea, not as cold, more time, better weather. 3. Reducing days: good, more direct pressure, set schedule. 4. Not in favor of elimination, many urban hunters have used same area for years, helps control herd.
Shorter season is fine, need to return to 4 point rule, 1 buck, 1 doe archery; 1 buck, 1 doe rifle. Let youth harvest 1 buck, 1 doe also per year. FREE YOUTH PERMITS.

I support the changes to the firearms deer seasons. Even with the reductions in lengths of portions of the season, there are still plenty of opportunities to enjoy deer hunting and harvest whichever type of deer you wish. I don't think that we need to allow crossbows during archery season since they are legal throughout the entire firearms portions. I support the reduction of harvesting bucks to one for the archery season. The conservation area regulations are complicated and need to be simplified and still allow management goals to be met.

I don't see them affecting me in any major way.

I think that the changes might help deer management and control CDC.

1. Urban zones crossbow hunting 2. Push it forward more, 2 days shorter ok 3. Lengthen youth seasons, both of them 4. I am for the change of the antlerless season 5. Allow crossbow, that's a no brainer 6. Reduce buck if we have to, that is ok 7. Let archery hunters, ok for both sexes on conservation land but God not firearm for does

Like to see last Monday/Tuesday stay same - surely not a factor. Not many deer harvested anyway I'll bet (Not many hunters) Muzzle loader a little earlier - Over Christmas Holiday not conclusive to more hunting

Really wish you would not remove the last Monday and Tuesday off the deer season. That is always when our family takes time off work to hunt.... Can't always get the other weekdays off. Surely those 2 days would not make that big of a difference in deer kill for each year.

If the antlerless season is reduced give the landowners an additional "Window of Opportunity" to harvest the number of does required to manage their private land (And the tags to do so)

Cutting the antlerless season is going to seriously affect my ability to harvest "meat deer." Warm weather during a 3 day season prevents home processing. Also, I use the mid- week hunting days to harvest calm, un-harassed animals. As a landowner I feel cheated by many of the proposed policy changes.

Cutting the length of the antlerless season seems to go against the Department goals of increasing hunter opportunity. We use the antlerless season to fill the freezer as we process our deer 1-2 at a time. It takes this opportunity away.

I'm fine with all the proposed changes EXCEPT the allowance of crossbows. Crossbows are not archery. One of the hardest elements of archery is getting drawn back on your prey without being seen. You don't have that challenge with x-bows. They are pre-cocked; you can shoulder them, use a scope and just pull the trigger. Leave our archery season alone.

1) Allow crossbow hunting for 62 years of age or older. 2) Allow crossbow hunting for 2nd half of bow season. 3) Allow crossbow hunting for 16 years of age or younger. 4) Delete allowing "farm tags" for leasees.

Reduce the antlerless deer kill in any way possible. Better control captive deer farms better, or legislature will take over. Continue to encourage coyote hunting.

Eliminate the urban season! Crossbows are FINE! Don't bother archery regs. Alternative method season timing is perfect.

If you want to manage deer look at Iowa, Kansas, Illinois, etc. You have screwed the pouch (?) on your management. Since 2006 it has gone to shit.
I think allowing able body people to hunt with a crossbow during archery is a bad idea.
I do not agree with adding crossbow to the archery season. The other changes are trying to raise deer numbers. Why add a change that allows for more deer to be harvested. Also I do not like the reduction of any deer permits for archery. The additional any deer tag allows more opportunity for me to hunt public land since most MDC sites are switching to Any deer only permits.
Raise non-resident fees. Move main firearms season a week later. I hunt all seasons, and hunt mature bucks so any regulation that promotes potentially more mature bucks I am in favor of. I agree population is down.
Eliminate the 4=point rule
Be very aggressive on CWD efforts. Be strong against the captive cervid industry. No question that CWD originated in captive herds. Eliminate the 4-point rule statewide. Unquestionably bucks hold higher incidence of CWD than does. Don't stockpile bucks
Agree to all except reducing buck allowance during archery season from 2 to 1. Use QDM practices and never have shot 2 bucks but like the option on seeing older age class bucks.
Leave the two buck limit on archery season. Allow crossbows of bow season without special permit
Open more archery only areas for us. Make Logan CA archery only because the deer do not have a chance during firearms season. Leave the two buck rule for archery
Leave the two buck limit on bow season. Allow crossbows all of bow season with no special permit
I would like to see the 9-day rifle season. Move it to December. Allow crossbows only in primitive season (muzzleloader) start bow season October 15th to run to January 1.
Eliminate urban zone portion - yes; reduce November portion 2 days - no; more youth portion to Thanksgiving day-Sunday those four days only; change timing and length of antlerless portion - no; no crossbows! Reduce the number of archery any deer permits from 2 to 1 - yes
Would like to see antler restriction state wide. I think the seasons are long enough. I would like to see the conservation department limit the doe tags to one per person per season
Youth season in abused should be during regular season
I agree with all the proposals
I trust MDC and our biologists to implement rules and regs that both benefit wildlife and hunters. I am in favor with all proposed regulation changes.
Ok to move youth to Thanksgiving weekend; urban changes, I live in SW Columbia by Twin Lakes would be nice to find a solution for all the deer in this area.
I like all the changes under consideration
I don't have a strong disagreement with the proposed changes. Would prefer to keep the archery antlered limit the same

I support most of the changes with the exception of the crossbows in archery season. Not a fan. I also would support moving rifle season to December mainly to see more mature bucks - let the three year olds get to be five year olds
No crossbows as legal method. Turkey season all day not 1/2 day; put gun season back 1 or 2 weeks
Reduce the number of buck tags to two I agree with but given the option of two archery tags or one of each because as an archery only hunter you are cutting a lot of solely bowhunters seasons really short
No crossbows during archery unless keeping the regs the same. Allow crossbows during alternative methods season only a loaded crossbow is like a gun, there is little effort/skill involved. Please keep archery season the same as is.
I agree with shortening the rifle season 100% but late youth season should stay the same and just completely do away with antlerless season as numbers are to low and you all already have enough money you can afford to not sell as many tags
No crossbows if you can't draw a bow I have no problem with it but if you are perfectly able then take the time to learn the sport you guys are making it too easy to take the easy path and that takes away from archery as a whole
Leave the CWD BS alone it's been happening forever killing thousands of deer does no good stop wasting my money on it and quit giving out nuisance tags unless they agree to take the animal for share the harvest if they won't tell them to let someone hunt for Christ sake quit letting people kill them for nothing but to save them a few bucks
Absolutely no cross bows, bow season is traditional and compounds sport only if you want to use crossbow use in gun alternative season if you can't shoot a bow get a permit for crossbows I'm fine with that. Yes get rid of urban gun zones. Yes shorten gun season; no late youth season after December; yes change or get rid of antlerless season; no on decreasing buck tags for bow season; no crossbows unless you have permit - it's a bow season; allow baiting and don't worry about CWD so damn much, it kills hardly as many as you claim, EHD is much worse; no more nuisance tags if farmers want deer thinned, let people hunt period. They have killed hunting in MO.
Several are good changes. I would like to see the first youth season be antlerless only to encourage the experience over killing a big buck. Plenty of time later for that. Second would like MDC to consider allowing a bowhunter to use a valid firearms permit as a 2nd archery permit prior to the firearms season - same number of bucks killed, just two with a bow vs. one bow, one gun
CWD - do not allow any cervids to be brought into the state. It jeopardizes our deer, elk. Why do my conservation dollars have to straighten out their mess? The businesses need to be fined to pay for all the costs of CWD!
Crossbow season should be with the muzzleloader season. Muzzleloaders went from traditional 100 yds. to in-line 200 yds. Crossbows will develop longer shots and with compressed air

loading to multi-shots. Must have mandatory crossbow hunter education. Allow crossbow or other hunting. Allow crossbows in urban hunts. Continue to allow crossbows with medical doctor's approvals. A little humor - we don't fish with dynamite, we don't hunt with crossbows.
These changes will give me less time to hunt or see deer, however after a year or two of these regulations I will hopefully see more deer, thus having a greater chance to get a deer
Don't get rid of 3 bucks, how many bucks are killed with archery after gun season?
No on crossbows during archery season it's not bow. It's all about the numbers of tags sold. There's not enough land to hunt on now. We need more public land to hunt on
Bow hunting is drawing your bow, aiming your bow and hoping that your deer doesn't see. Crossbows all you have to do is aim with a scope that is just like a gun hunting to me
Agree with all but: 1) phase in crossbow - after firearms for a couple of years; 2) do NOT reduce archery buck to one.
I would like to see crossbows legalized for people over 55, or very young, or those with shoulder problems.
All changes are OK except reducing archery antlered deer to one. 577 deer killed as second archery antlered => very low real impact, but significant decrease in hunter enjoyment. Would reduce time kids go hunting if "Dad" kills early.
I agree with all proposed changes. I do believe that we should go back to: 1 buck, 1 doe for all seasons including alternative methods. Do away with late seasons in Jan. to relieve pressure before deep winter.
Approve of all except eliminating urban portion - still too many vehicle collisions. Xbow - good change. Keep older hunters unable to climb and women/youth engaged in hunting. No downside.
Have a hard time hunting deer with regular archery equipment. Don't want people out there with rifle powered arrows taking all the deer. Put them with the rifle season and give them an extra tag.
The reduction of the number of archery permits from 2 to 1 seems to be pointless to management because of how small of a percentage of hunters actually fill the second tag. I feel all it would really accomplish is removing more hunters from late season after they fill the first tag.
Why did it take so long to make changes to the season limits? This population decline has been going on in Holt, Atchison Counties for 5-6 years.
Move November portion out of the peak of rut. Remove antlerless portion completely for 5 years to increase the herd size. Raise the nonresident tags. Do not allow crossbows during archery season.
I support the proposed changes. I wish we didn't have to make them, but I believe we must for long term benefits. Thanks for what you do.
Ok with all regulation changes.
Shorter season will crowd conservation areas where I hunt. I would rather have a longer season with fewer antlerless tags.

I feel out of state landowners shouldn't have to buy out of state tags. Also poor antlered deer need to be culled.
I think that the changes look good and have good reason to be reason to be done, but can see why some might be upset about the archer season. Even if it does not make much of a difference
I think the changes to the 2016-2017 deer season will be beneficial to the deer population. If the deer herd improves the Regulations can change accordingly
I think the changes will be beneficial to the deer populations and will allow for more hunters to enjoy the fun and harvest
I am concerned about the low population, the spread of disease and the possibility of including crossbows into archery seasons. At 63 years old I can't see the bow sights anymore.
Urban zone portion elimination is of great concern. This seems to me to be a bad idea. I do like the addition of crossbow to the archery season. I don't believe the 2 day reduction in the November is needed.
I would like to see a limit on antlerless deer reduced but not the number of days available for a hunter to hunt. Weather or other types of reason may not allow a hunter to hunt on the allowed specific dates.
A-Okay with maintaining the timing of the season and reducing the length to 9 days. Ok with youth season changes. Reduce the number of antlerless allowed instead of amount of days in season. Not everyone can hunt weekends or week days. Like the ideas of allowing crossbows for archery season, ok with reduced number of archery permits
Concerned about the possible elimination of the urban portion. I have taken advantage of this and find it a very good time to get a jump on the season and start patterning them.
Good consideration to crossbow as an added feature to archery deer hunting. Probably would not alter deer population very much
Positive interest in xbow hunting. Think you all are doing a good job
Deer: make point restriction apply to youth. One buck total for year all weapons. Turkey: Hunt all day-Have an archery season prior to gun season. Harvest applies to season
If the proposed management changes are for the better conservation of the deer population and for the conservation of hunting for generations to come I am all for it
I'm okay with all changes that are being proposed. It will help out the deer population, but maybe make 1/2 the archery season so we can use the crossbow
Does: reducing any deer archer permits decrease the cost? Would it be one buck and one antlerless? # of archery any-deer: only if we get one buck and one antlerless, no extra cost. Keep 2 deer and 2 turkeys. Eliminate urban zone: yes as long as you can still hunt-reduce length of November portion yes; change timing and length of youth: yes; timing and length of antlerless yes; crossbows in archery: NO! They're basically rifles, allow them only for rifle and alternative methods. Traditional and compound bows should be archery methods. Conservation areas:

keep them as is. Each area is different and should be managed differently. Maybe increase ways to inform the public on area regulations. Try not to limit methods too much. I need to hunt.
I support the allowance of crossbows. I don't agree with shortening antlerless season; I agree with maintaining the November portion
Agree that November portion should be reduced to 9 days and agree antlerless portion to be reduced to 3 days. Not opposed to crossbows, but it is not the right time-doe numbers need to rise first; ok with any changes that will keep our youth involved! Would like to keep limit of antlered deer during archery season at 2. Thank you for having this open house-it is much appreciated
Limit of 1 antlered deer per person per year. Close game farms and leave the November portion as is
I think it should be a limit of 1 buck per person. Leave the November portion should stay the same. Close game farms!
I did not buy a tag last year. After 30+ years of hunting deer, I decided your 4 point or buck rule has killed of any hunting in my area. The buck racks in my area are worse now than when you started this rule. I've gone since 2009 without a deer because I haven't seen a deer with 4 points on one side. You have forgotten the meat hunters.I am disappointed in your regulations and probably will not buy a deer tag this year.
Move deer season after the rut. One youth season. Antlerless portion to 3 days is good. Crossbows NO. Reduce the limit of antlered deer to 1 per year rifle or bow.
I love them all. Please consider abolishing the antlerless season and I would love to see the general firearms season moved to the end of November. I would be fine with 1 buck regardless of chosen method
Move rut to December and no to crossbows
I believe it would be find except I do not support the crossbow during the archery season
Do what it takes to get deer numbers up to the levels the kids can enjoy
Keep the urban zone portion to keep populations in check within the urban areas. I agree to expand the youth hunting opportunities to include additional days in which school is closed. Providing opportunities for youth hunters can only improve hunting and help deer populations to always be in check
Crossbows would be a good thing to add to archery. I would like to keep 2 buck harvest for archery. Shortening the antlerless portion I would not like because I use that season to harvest my doe and I use the regular season to just "watch" deer and wait for the big buck
Reducing the limit of antlered deer during archery season to one is a good idea and will help the deer populations grow in older antlered deer
I think that altering the time of the late youth season is a great idea. People tend to forget that there is still a late youth season which I think takes away from participation. Putting it closer to other seasons will give them a better chance to go.

Keep the urban zone portion to help hunters have another opportunity to bag a deer. Keep the November portion open for 2 days to help give chances to guys/girls that are busy other days. Yes, alter the timing of the youth hunting time. Yes, reduce the antlerless portion. I think crossbows should not be allowed for archery, maybe set a portion of the season where they can be used, but not the whole season.

Appendix B. Online Comments

Eliminate the antlerless season all together, no crossbows for archery season.
I am very disappointed that you are recommending crossbow use for everyone. I am one with the crossbow use exemption. I have multiple sclerosis, so I can't pull a bow or climb a tree stand, but I love to hunt, and bow season is one of the few times during the year that I DON'T feel disadvantaged. I understand what you said about older hunters, why don't you recommend crossbow is ok for senior citizens or something? But not ok for everyone, ok for everyone puts us disabled hunters back at disadvantaged.
After hearing for quite some time now from MDC employees that they were sure crossbows would be included in archery season for the 2015 season you're now going to make all of us wait ANOTHER year? That's just silly! 25 states currently have full inclusion in archery season with no problems. I've been waiting for this to occur and have everything I need. I cannot use a regular bow good enough and was sure, after being told by MDC people it would happen for the upcoming season I would finally be able to hunt archery season with my crossbow. I encourage you to push this ahead and approve crossbows for the upcoming season!
What's going on here? You and your field agents tell everyone crossbows will be included for the '15 archery season, people go buy crossbows because everyone says it's a "done deal" and now you aren't going to do it for another year? Why? This is a bunch of BS. All the other states don't have a problem with it and I hear Iowa is even going to have a bill introduced to allow them to be used by everyone this year! Don't make us wait! You can still allow crossbows for the upcoming season. DO IT!
Most of the changes look good but, seriously, no crossbows until 2016? I mean WTF? Legalize crossbows fully into archery season for the 2015 season PLEASE!
No crossbows this year? What a bunch of crap! Geesh.....what's the big deal? Almost every other decent hunting state allows them full time in archery season but once again.....the MDC drags its damned feet! Stop changing your dang minds and just approve them for the 2015 season! Apparently someone inside the MDC told a lot of retailers it would happen and no you go back on your word, again!
I like almost everything about the new proposals. Believe the compromise of season timing and shortening is great and limited antlerless season will work wonderfully. The 1 buck archery/1 buck rifle is a very good idea, I just wonder if it would make more sense to offer one archery only and one archery/rifle tag. This would give the hunter a chance to fill an archery tag early season then have the choice to fill a second buck tag either during rifle season or, wait until after rifle season and fill the second buck tag with a late season buck. The only mistake I can point out is not approving crossbows for the 2015/2016 season fully with archery season. I believe it would give you data to show the effects of this upcoming season and then, next year you'll see what happens under the new regulations. Also, I believe the few people interested in using a crossbow during archery season were hopeful and made investments based upon what they read and were told. Making crossbows legal for the upcoming 2015=2016 season makes the most

sense, will keep everyone happy and can easily be made this Spring. I believe everyone would be happy with crossbow implementation and also perhaps moving to at least a 2 Doe limit during archery season if not 1, like rifle season.

Thanks, Keep up the good work!

Using biology is not the way to solve Missouri's deer population. Listening to hunter's actually in the field would be a better approach. If you would have listened to us 5 years ago when everyone started seeing declines in population, MDC would not be in this situation. Cutting season dates but allowing crossbows during the entire archery season seems counterproductive. Cutting season's dates but allowing youth hunters one more day seems counterproductive. Either you want more deer killed or you don't. You can't have both.

I agree with the format of all the proposed changes presented for the 2016-2017 Deer Season. However, I would strongly consider the push of Missouri's rifle season out of the rut to December 5th - 14th. In my opinion, this would aid in the mature deer of our state to pursue the tending/breeding phase of the rut for longer duration without increased hunting pressure during peak breeding. Many bow-hunters still see good "rut" movement during the post rut portion early in December (given weather conditions) which would still allow rifle hunters to accomplish a successful harvest. I strongly agree with the reduction in the amount of antlered deer that can be taken by 1 hunter in a given season using various methods. In my opinion, hunters (adult) should only be able to harvest a max of 2 antlered deer using any method throughout the year. This could be via a combination - for example, the hunter that harvests 2 antlered buck's during Missouri's archery season (given the pushed back time frame above for MO rifle season) from September 15th - December 4th (assuming gun opener is Dec. 5th) would be ineligible to participate in Missouri's gun season as they reached their max antlered buck limit in the archery season before the December firearms portion. If that hunter only harvested 1 buck before the new December firearms portion, they could then pursue archery methods and still be eligible to harvest an antlered buck after the gun season was over (much like the regulations now). However, he or she would be ineligible to do so if they were to hunt during the gun season and harvest a buck. I believe our herd is moving in the right direction. Within the past 10 years, I believe I have viewed bigger/healthier deer than I had in prior years. The antler point restriction is definitely working. Please keep this implemented. Especially within the counties near and around the Central Missouri/Ozark region (Benton County specifically).

I hate the idea of introducing crossbows for archery season. This is a bad idea which takes the sport out of bow hunting. I am almost 40 and would never think of picking up a crossbow. It is just like gun hunting with a trigger. There is no skill involved in looking through a scope to shoot something with a bow. Takes away from the heritage of bow hunting and is just a BAD BAD idea!

Instead of 1 archery buck tag and one firearm buck tag just have 2 buck tags and have one archery only and one archery/gun. The option of hunting two bucks with a bow would be a better fit for the length of the archery season should a hunter harvest one buck early in the season.

I wholeheartedly support your current proposals for 2016-2017 deer season I do not want to move opening day of the primary firearm season. I support crossbow inclusion to archery season.

I support the proposed changes. I really like youth season over Thanksgiving weekend. Thank you

I think the MDC is way over reacting! The deer herd is just fine in my neck of the woods and will quickly over populate without 5-10 animals harvested each year. That said, with the antlerless tags being reduced to one and the possibility of only one antlered tag for a bow it will take away too many hours that we can be out in the field, if that makes sense. Also, I don't like the antler restriction, especially for the bow season. Please don't make me start a new bird dog and go to another state to hunt because of the pressure you receive to produce giant deer, most hunters don't care we just want to have the opportunity to go. Thanks

All the proposed ideas sound GREAT! Thanks for listening to Missouri sportsmen and women.

I agree with the proposed changes but I would prefer to have the regular firearms season moved back one week in November (begin the weekend before Thanksgiving).

I have weighed in my thoughts on each subject you have listed and annotated at the end what I think of each change. I have rated them Pointless, Good, and Neutral based upon myself and my hunting household. Reducing the Deer Season to 9 Days will do nothing for the herd, it will only take away hunter opportunities.(Pointless) Anytime youths get a chance to hunt I'm happy with that.(Good) Not as Fan of Antler-less season anyway. With the EHD outbreaks in the past what is the point of killing off the Deer Factories in another season. (Pointless) I don't and have never hunted the Urban portion. (Neutral) Crossbows are already allowed for people that actually need them. Way to go MDC in helping further the "Everyone gets a trophy liberal mindset". If you can't take the time to be proficient with a bow or go get a doctor exemption stays out of the dang woods. (Pointless) I have never killed more than one buck per year, and am very selective in what I shoot. That said taking away my opportunity only to add crossbows and give more lazy people a chance to hunt is uncalled for and irresponsible on your part. (Pointless) I don't hunt conservation areas. (Neutral) In conclusion, I don't understand why you constantly feel the need to make changes to things when its working just fine the way it is. Myself and family log several hours afield each year hunting, and consistently have to change how we hunt because you as the MDC make us. When will enough be enough? You are making me want to vote for a government take-over because of your constant change. Just leave well enough alone. There will never be a time when a Boone and Crockett deer is behind every tree, so stop trying to make it so. I enjoy hunting and you are making it harder and harder for me to enjoy. Just STOP.

After review of the proposed 2016-17 changes to the MO deer hunting seasons, I am disappointed that public comments and perception carry greater influence than science based changes. Implementation of changes to the deer hunting season and regulations should focus on quality deer management and not the management of public opinions or how many tags are sold. MO is know where near the carrying capacity of white-tailed deer, however social carrying capacity continues to decline as human population increases. I agree it is difficult to please everyone, but if we rely on science based changes the end result will be an increase in the quality

of deer hunting, and the retention and recruitment of deer hunters in MO. One important aspect of deer hunting that wasn't mentioned in development of regulation changes is the motivation of today's deer hunters. What motivates deer hunters to participate in this recreational opportunity? Have these motivations evolved or changed over the past half century? Hunters aren't attracted to a state or property for its minimal, average antlered, or few white-tailed deer. Hunters want to have the opportunity to harvest mature, large antlered deer along with good hunting opportunities. Good hunting opportunities include seeing and harvesting deer (antlerless and antlered). So let's manage MO deer herd for quality hunting opportunities for all ages! Moving the main rifle season and youth season out of the peak of the rut will result in an improved and more balanced deer herd. I am an advocate for promoting youth in deer hunting and the outdoors; however, I feel that MDC has become increasingly liberal in catering to young hunters. In review of the harvest demographics of the 2014 hunting season I noticed a significantly greater percentage of deer harvested during the November youth season were bucks than any other season, which is odd because there are a greater number of does than bucks in MO deer herd. Allowing youth hunters to deer hunt when success opportunities are optimal has no correlation with future hunter retention. Are the majority of youth hunters targeting bucks? Are adult hunters illegally harvesting and tagging bucks? Is the youth season catering to the parents of youth hunters? I also disagree with MDC's age class structure for youth hunters. At 6 years of age is a youth hunter physically or mentally prepared for deer hunting? Have they developed respect for the deer they are hunting and know the responsibilities associated? Would you trust walking in front of a 6 year old with a loaded rifle? NO, NO, NO and NO! Younger hunters often use smaller caliber rifles that result in more wounded animals as well as longer expiration times of the game. I also disagree with the implementation of a second youth season. If a youth hunter is unsuccessful during the first youth season, the parent taking that youth hunter should continue to support that youth hunter during any upcoming season. It's obvious why youth hunter success is low during the second youth season; fewer deer available for harvest, changes in deer behavior, and poor weather conditions. Please consider these recommendation and comments to the 2016-17 deer seasons; Reduce the number of youth seasons to one, move the one, Nov. youth season to mid-Oct. (more desirable weather conditions), no antler point restriction for youth hunters during any deer season, modify the age limits of youth hunters (recommend range of 8-15 years of age), move the main rifle season out of the peak of the rut (at minimum back one week), implement antler restrictions statewide (4 point rule), agree with the two buck limit (one archery and one firearm), agree with reduced antlerless season, agree with crossbow method addition to archery season, and agree with removal of urban season. Please consider ethically and scientifically based decision in managing this important MO resource. Thanks

Dropping the number of firearms days from 10 to 9 is not going to make a noticeable effect. The change that people want to see is moving the firearms season later into the year. I have been an advocate of pushing it back to the Saturday after Thanksgiving. Doing this will allow even more 3.5-4.5 yr. old bucks to breed and a better chance to make it through the year. We will still

harvest plenty enough deer to keep the population in check. This will also allow bowhunters a better chance at a mature buck during the rut. Look at every other state around Missouri. They have more mature bucks and a big reason for that is because none of them have a 10 day centerfire rifle season during the peak of the rut! After the big EHD outbreak in 2012 and 2013 throughout Missouri our deer numbers have definitely been brought back into check. I'm not alone in my opinion....it's time for a change! Please! A.

I would like to see the lengths of the current deer seasons stay the same. I would also prefer there be more antlerless deer tags available during rifle season. My family depends on venison for a food source throughout the year. By taking away permits, or days allowed to hunt, this has a negative impact on our livelihood.

As a former Missouri Hunters Safety Instructor I feel that increasing the antler restriction limit to a 10 point rule (from the 4 point on one side rule currently in place) would help the current situation our state is undergoing as far as hunters being able to see and have the opportunity to harvest a more of a "trophy" type of buck which would in turn draw more hunters to the field for the chance to harvest a mature animal, while also making the opportunity for nonresident's to look to come to Missouri for the chance to harvest a more mature animal VS looking at other states such as Kansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Ohio and such. Which would also help the Conservation Dept out by increasing the economic benefit of the Dept and the State due to added revenue from nonresident hunters by over time increasing nonresident fees due to the increase in desire to hunt in our state. I know for a few years this would make a good percentage of the current hunters not very happy about the situation but as with any changes made there is always going to be a long term benefit to Hunter, Dept., and State. I mostly agree with most of the current proposed changes with some added changes that need to be made. I.E. Changes and or at minimum keeping the area regulations updated online to a higher degree so a hunter does not go to the field and only then finds out that antler restrictions for that area have been lifted or that the taking of doe's is not allowed on that area until they reach the area (or in one case arriving in the dark and entering the field and not finding out about the lifted antler restriction and restriction on taking doe's until you exit the field due to limited signage that was not visible in the dark and not being placed on the website at all (on this hunt I had taken a new to hunting adult hunter that would have had a chance to take an animal otherwise), which have both happened to me within the past few years, but if the website had been updated in a timely fashion the new adult hunter would have had a chance to harvest an animal and would have possibly maintained an interest in hunting (which they currently do not). A.E.

I don't agree that the November should stay the same date it needs to be moved back to the weekend after thanks giving. A 3 day youth will not change much cause most kids and adults won't miss school work. Crossbows should never be allowed during archery it's a gun basically not fair to the rest of us who work our tails off all year long. We should still get two buck tags for archery as well not that often do people fill both but should have the option if able to that year.

Another idea of mine is for the Dept. to raise revenue by charging whatever a non-residence's state charges our hunters to hunt in their state is what they would have to pay to buy a tag in our state I.E. Kansas charging \$450+ for nonresident that is what they would pay and if South Dakota only charged \$50 that what they would have to pay. I like to call it fair pay hunting It would work two fold in that most of our resident hunters are pushed out of prime hunting spots by nonresident hunters that have more money to lease land to hunt and it could also give our residents more chances to hunt out of state after other states see what we are doing they may adjust their nonresident permit prices to give less well-off hunters more of a chance to be able to afford to hunt in their states by adjusting their prices to reflex lower priced states.

Shortening rifle season 2 days is pointless. It needs delayed at least a week so the larger bucks have more time to do the breeding or taken out of the rut period.

Crossbows are going to be devastating on our turkey population. The reason I can't kill turkeys in the fall is because I can't get drawn on them. With crossbows I can easily limit out every year. I really like that you are trying to make me a better hunting state. I don't like the 1 buck limit because it's not affecting many deer. Only 2 or 3 percent of people kill 2 bucks a year so that's not a drastic change. Unlimited antlerless tags have to go! This is the number one biggest problem. I think archery should be 2 any deer and 1 bonus antlerless and gun should be 1 any deer and 1 bonus antlerless.

Move gun season out of the rut! Last week of November or first of December. Limit buck tags 1 archery and 1 gun or archery. Go back to one youth season. Up out of state tags or do draw system to many out of state road hunters and trespassers.

I believe MDC is moving in the right direction with the proposed deer regulations, just not fast enough and is not restrictive enough on antlerless harvest. I support all of the proposed regulation changes with the exception of the following. I would prefer to eliminate the antlerless season all together. I would also like to see the antlerless deer limits reduced to one in Chariton County. On a side note, I would also like to see the use of salt/mineral to be legal again. Many portions of the county are far removed from the CWD hotspot.

Hello, regarding the proposed firearms season changes, I am very pleased with all of the proposals. Especially expanding the youth season and moving it up. Anytime I can have more time in the field with my boys I'm all for it. Plus January weather has been pretty rough on them. Also, leaving the current timing of the November portion is very important to me. I think the hunter can decide what deer they want to harvest but why not be in the woods when we can see the most activity? I am adamantly in favor of allowing crossbows in bow season. It would allow my youngest son to hunt in bow season also. Lastly, I think the MDC should consider charging out of state hunters what their state charges MO hunters for tags. I would like to hunt in other states but what they charge for licenses is insane. I don't think it's fair for their hunters to hunt here so cheaply if their state charges outlandish fees. But I do think MDC prices for out of state tags are fair. Thank you for accepting comments!

I am very busy in my normal world and did not have as much time to hunt as I would have liked to. I hunt in Lawrence County now and for most of my life have hunted for meat. For some

reason, my opening day for the past few years has been poor at best. One thing I would like to see is for the regular deer season to be extended to include the time allotted for the doe season. I can only get out a couple times during the regular season and that would give me a chance to get out and possibly get a buck that went into hiding after the first gun shot. Generally in my area, there are only shots on Saturdays during the season, I have not heard much during the other days. I was lucky enough to get out on Dec. 30 (last day of alternative arms season) and got a small buck but to have more opportunities earlier would certainly benefit me. I am at a point that I would like two deer each year and this year it went up to the last minute. I don't want to abuse anything but I do use deer as a staple each year. Hoping for more chances.

The only change I don't agree with is the elimination of the urban hunt.

If MDC changes archery bag limits to one any deer tag then MDC needs to allow the firearms any deer tag to be also used as a late season archery tag. I don't hunt with centerfire rifles and really enjoy late season bow hunting. I shouldn't have to and don't want to pick up a gun to get more buck hunting. I hunt the entire season and enjoy it from Sept. - Jan. I look forward to those 4 months all year. If adopted without this provision MDC will have cut my season in half. Bow hunting is what I do for 4 months of the year. Please don't limit my time afield.

Adding crossbows to archery season and limiting antlered deer to 1 during archery season I'm against. Crossbows by permit/exemption due to disability. 2 antlered deer limit. No antlerless season. I want to hear more on private ground management leasees should be able to purchase landowner tags to manage does what is a good deer herd sex ratio.

Archery changes: I agree with allowing crossbows during archery season. It would allow for more women, children, and older hunters to enjoy archery hunting. I do NOT agree with only allowing 1 antlered deer during archery season. I do not think the number of archery hunters taking 2 bucks during a season are high enough to warrant this limit. I personally have never taken more than but the opportunity to take another one keeps the hunting motivation going
Firearms season Changes: I disagree with the need to shorten the season to 9 days. I think the season is already too short and compact, most people have to take leave from work to get a fair number of days to hunt as it is. I do love the idea of moving the second youth season to Thanksgiving weekend and allowing for 3 days instead of 2. I do however wish that a youth tag meant you do not have to abide by the 4 point rule even during regular firearms season.

The firearms any deer tag also needs to be valid for late season archery hunting.

I have no issues with all the proposed changes except letting anyone use a crossbow during archery season. A crossbow is constantly held at full draw, increases accuracy and range. It is not an archery tool, it is similar to hunting with a handgun. If they do that it will be ridiculous and you will see a decline in satisfaction. Bow hunting big deer is coveted because it is such a challenge, using a crossbow is much less a challenge and not as impressive.

I disagree with allowing crossbows during archery, there is no reason a healthy and able person needs a crossbow to archery hunt! I am in favor of the 1-1 buck harvest and would like to see the antler point restriction statewide. I am also against shortening the firearms season but would understand the need for such a change.

I agree with changing to maintain a healthy deer population and reduce to one buck for archery and one for firearms. I don't agree with use of crossbows during archery but my main concern would be nonresident hunting. MO needs to raise the price for tags and even implement a draw system for nonresident hunters. MO boarder states including IL, KS, and IA have this in place. It's time for MO to make that change.

I can live with these. Time for unlimited antler less tags to stop. Crossbows are gonna happen, but I propose a "New York" solution. Allow them during firearms then continue through late archery season. It would give a chance for data collection and a trial run. Hard data may silence crossbow critics. Maybe consider an early muzzleloader season like other states but keep 1 buck only. Also time to move rifle out of the rut timing.

Very disappointed in the proposed changes. I thought modern firearm gun season would finally be moved out of the rut, it's even been said that it's not biologically the ideal time but yet we have to cater to people that solely hunt one or two weekends a year that are mainly hung up on the tradition of having gun season in the middle of November and think they won't be able to kill a deer with high powered rifle in December. Then you also want to allow crossbows into archery season, there's a huge advantage to using a crossbow over a compound. If someone is healthy why is there a need for crossbows? Seems to me it comes down to catering to crossbow companies pushing their product. On top of all this not one thing is done to limit nonresidents, I'm so sick and tired of hearing "people like to come home and hunt". All the states surrounding us do something to keep nonresident numbers in check. All the over the counter, low price tags for nonresidents do is take away from the tax paying resident in the form of ground being leased up by the nonresidents or by outfitters. I'd gladly give up my free landowner tags if nonresidents were limited. A November gun season, crossbows, OTC tags for nonresidents, who comes up this stuff? Want to save more bucks too? quit letting spikes with 3 inches of antler get tagged as an antlerless, it's still a buck. If people can follow a 4 pt rule surely they can identify their target before killing it. Everybody I've dealt with at the MDC has been very courteous and helpful but some of the stuff that gets proposed is unreal.

RE: Limiting archery antlered deer to one. I practice quality deer management on our 337 acres in Pike County, investing thousands of dollars into plots, stands, TSI, supplements, minerals, soil, etc. I do this because of the strategies we can use to maximize our chances of harvesting mature bucks in the early season, rut, and through the late season. Taking away the ability to harvest a mature buck with bow during the rut in the early portion of archery season, and then again in the late season, takes away half the season for the serious deer manager and bow hunter. I learned this season that the "late" season bow hunting for mature whitetail is some of the most challenging hunting of any animal, anywhere. I do not want to lose that because I choose to take a buck during the rut in early November. Please do not limit archers to one buck. Not only will it diminish the wonderful experience of a long season of hunting, it will alter the food we plant to keep mature bucks on our farm during late season and reduce our hunting hours overall, substantially. This will affect the herd overall because there is no sense in investing in food for late season hunting. I think it is a real bonus to be able to segment our season into three seasons:

two archery and one firearm, with the ability to extend firearms to muzzle loader for both doe management and a second chance at a mature buck if we failed during the regular portion of firearms. RE 2nd Youth Portion. I think it is a good idea to move the youth portion up, but not to the tail end of the rut. This will undoubtedly have a great impact on buck management than any limitation which MDC might make on archers. Move the late portion to the day first weekend after Christmas. All kids are off school. Many parents take time off work. There is still plenty of deer movement. You are not in any rut period. And the kids can test out their new weapons and gear from Santa. Your other changes look good to foster hunting and keep the herd healthy and balanced.

The crossbow is not a form archery. It is just as easy to shoot as a rifle and does not require anywhere near the amount a skill a compound or other sort of bow requires. It should not be included in the archery season. Don't limit the number of bucks we can take during archery season either.

Crossbows should be allowed. 2 bucks a year total. 1 during archery and 1 during rifle season. Yes reduce all the firearm seasons. Implement the 4 pt rule again in Chariton Co.

I disagree with changes from 10 days to 9; I actually think it should be longer. I also think bait should be allowed why can people that have money plant corn and hunt over it, and I cannot buy a bag of corn and pour it out; the stores should not be allowed to sell it if it is illegal. I would love to know the reason behind this. The playing field is not fair when it comes to this. I think changes need to be made to make it fair.

I couldn't be more disappointed in these proposals, absolutely absurd!! It's amazing how the mdc continues to cater to the gun hunter, only for the sole desire to sell tags and make money. You have a chance to move the gun season out of the heart of the rut but I doubt you will make the change because it's not the popular decision. As a bowhunter I am very upset about the one buck proposal, as if bowhunting wasn't hard enough, now if we do shoot a buck in early November we are pretty much done for the year and have no motivation to get outdoors in the late season. You will get a lot of opposition from this proposed change I'm sure. You already have the youth hunt in the rut as well and a lot of friends of mine can't even bowhunt the best weekend because they have to take the kids out hunting, consider making the youth hunt in late October? Thanksgiving weekend was always a bowhunting weekend for me and now you want to put all the kids out there again? Come on you guys! Wake up! One youth hunt is plenty, enough already! I couldn't be more disappointed with your proposals and I'm losing faith in the MDC every season that goes by. The one buck with a bow will be the worst decision you ever make, there will be no incentive to hunt late season with archery. Quit catering to the guns and do what's right for our deer herd. I wish I was an Iowa resident, I would leave this joke of a state and hunt a state where they understand how to do it right!

I am very disappointed with the proposed regulation changes. I was very excited and optimistic when I learned MDC was considering moving firearms season back a week. I understand this is not popular with a lot of hunters but let's do what's best for the deer herd! As if it were not enough that we allow high power rifles during gun season, MO also allows their hunters to use

them right smack dab in the prime rut when the bucks are most vulnerable. In actuality, MO hunters would still be hunting whitetails in the primary rut; they would only be doing so after most of the breeding has taken place. This will certainly preserve some of MOs higher age class bucks helping to make MO deer hunting even better in the future. What would be the harm in at least trying it? Perhaps MO hunters could enjoy hunting the same age-class bucks our neighbors in IA, IL, and KS are hunting! The other main problem I have with the proposed changes is limiting bow hunters to just 1 buck. Should a bowhunter be lucky enough to harvest a buck in the 1st half of archery season, what incentive would he/she have to even hunt late archery season knowing there's no chance to shoot a good buck should he/she be lucky enough to see one. I can't believe there's a significant enough number of bucks being harvested by bowhunters in late season to warrant such a restrictive rule. I certainly appreciate the opportunity to harvest does in late season with my bow but I think I speak for a majority of bowhunters when I say that I just won't hunt late season if there's no chance to shoot a buck. Aren't we trying to promote hunting?! If MDC is worried about over-harvesting of bucks should they really be concentrating on bowhunters? If MDC feels strongly that hunters should only harvest 2 bucks, perhaps they should allow the hunter to choose if it will be 2 bucks by bow or 1 by bow and 1 by gun. Thank you, D.K.

Not a fan of crossbow use during Archery portion without a medical waiver. I feel the added skill to within range, get drawn and then make an ethical shot warrants its own season. This turns archery season in to a glorified shorter range gun season.

Keep the 2 bucks per archery tag. It gives people who are lucky enough to shoot a buck in the early season to come back for late season hunting and keep spending money in the great state of Missouri. Or how about an option of purchasing a second buck tag at a reduced rate say another 100.00 dollars.

Very disappointing MDC would want to limit bowhunters to one antlered tag per season. Furthermore, if Missouri is serious about becoming a big buck state then push rifle season back one more week. Letting gun hunters pound antlered bucks with high power affects the buck population more than bowhunters ever will. I know moving rifle season back one week would not be a popular move with the gun hunters, but overall more bucks would make the season.

How many bow hunters kill 2 bucks? I have not killed any the last 2 years but if you think you should reduce my number to 1 and keep the gun season "SMACK " in the middle of the rut - " you are going to have issues" with us bow hunters. Your slob gun hunters don't have to work hard for anything and massacre so many and now you want to take it out on us!? Bad idea- Firearm S-Su-Monday over done. Firearm S - Su- Monday before Thanksgiving - done over 6 days not 9 continuous days so them slob gun hunters can massacre all the petty little two year old bucks. Better yet spread it out between gun & alternative to 4 - different 3 day weekends and let bow run continuous. I have so much more- No on the youth right after Thanksgiving - youth should be 3 days mid Oct. S-S-M - don't give an unfair advantage by starting on a Friday and 2nd season mid-December but beware! Many slob gun hunters use this for themselves! Buying a tag for a kid that's never shot a gun do they can kill another two year old buck?

NO crossbows - this is a hard decision because I have two men in my nuisance group Suburban Bowhunters that use one BUT I think hunters have enough opportunities to hunt and this will only allow slob gun hunters or urban property owners more opportunities to kill more bucks ? Which is what you are trying to eliminate? For us bow hunters

I have no issues with any of the amendments except for allowing crossbows into archery season. Crossbows are great for those unable to use a bow but would greatly reduce the animal's chance of survival if everyone had the opportunity to use a crossbow. I also believe more mature does would be harvested hurting future deer numbers.

I do not like these changes. And would like to keep the seasons similar to this year.

Antlerless season changes are a good idea. But the other changes are a joke because they will do little to change the herd dynamics of Missouri deer population. None of the proposed changes do enough to effect anything. Except allowing crossbows. Why allow crossbows during archery season. If a person wants to hunt with a crossbow they can use them during regular rifle season, alternative methods season, and during managed hunts. Also you can get a crossbow permit if you're disabled. There is no need for more crossbow seasons. Why do you guys act like you want to change regulations for the betterment of the herd when you have no intentions of making any beneficial changes like moving the rifle season back a couple weeks or doing management by regions and not state wide. Or limiting the number of bucks nonresidents can kill to 1 like every other state. Why don't you guys quit messing around and make some changes that will work to change Missouri for the better? Quit going to work just to collect a check and do something that's going to do some good for Missouri's deer herd and MO hunters.

Saw the proposed changes. Would rather have four point rule throughout state. Move rifle season out of the rut. Move youth season up a week. Allow now hunters two bucks. I spend a lot of money and time on food plots and land management; I don't want to spend the late season freezing looking for doe. Archery hunters are not taking that many bucks in the late season. Moving the rifle season out of the rut and state wide four point rule would put Missouri on par with Illinois.

I was disappointed in some of the possible changes proposed by MDC. I feel the following would benefit Missouri deer herd and hunters. Reduce antler less tags. Move rifle portion out of the rut. Archery hunters do not harvest that great number of bucks to warrant a loss of buck tag after the rifle portion. 4 point antler restriction state wide. Move the youth portion up a week
Thanks.

Love the idea you will have way more bow hunters by allowing crossbows especially the over 50 age group

Reduce to 1 deer is not good

All of it sounds good except the fact that you are leaving firearms season where it is at. Of course gun hunters don't want to change the timing because it is when they can take the most bucks. Deer populations are in decline around my area and if you don't move firearms season it will continue to drop. The next thing you need to fix is telecheck. This is an honest boys system and

you should know very well that there are some very dishonest people out there. For every deer you have called in on telecheck I'd say there is one to two not called in. Go back to check in stations.

I do not understand why if you claim our deer herd numbers are declining you would propose to allow crossbows throughout the entire archery season. By allowing crossbows you are encouraging a higher deer harvest during archery season but yet you claim our deer herd is down. I spend over 100 days a year in the field bowhunting and have but noticed any decline in deer numbers so I don't buy it. I also dislike the idea of only allowing one buck per season I believe the 4 point restrictions in most areas are forcing hunters to harvest bucks of older age classes which is helpful to the population. I don't think that only allowing one buck a Year would do anything to help your cause.

Limiting archery to 1 buck would be a disaster for the doe herd In urban areas. Most hunters after that second buck will opportunistically take does while there in a tree.

Firearms Season Changes: Keep the current timing of the November portion but DONT reduce the length. If I wasn't a bow hunter I would suggest moving the November portion up a week earlier. Yes, extent the youth portion to 3 days. Archery Season Changes: •Yes, allow crossbows as a legal method during the archery deer and turkey season. I think this will get more kids and women involved. •No, DONT reduce the limit of antlered deer during the archery season to 1. Archery season is pretty long. I would say most people end up using one of those any-deer tags on a doe anyway. I purchase the antlerless archery tag and almost always end up eating that second any-deer tag. However, I need that tag so I can continue hunting for that big buck.

I think the limiting of doe season is a good idea until the population reaches the ideal number. The limiting of bucks on the archers is not a good idea. he number of hunters that harvest two bucks is not very high. The idea of a second buck after gun season keeps some archers out in the field (which adds to the economy). One possible solution would be to make it two archery seasons and being able to purchase an any deer tag for each season.

Move the firearm season to the first part of December so we don't gun hunt in the rut. Just like the states around us. 9 days is long enough gun season. Eliminate the doe season. No crossbows and only one buck with a archery tag. Move the late season youth hunt to November

Not exactly why these changes are being considered. Unless the population is drastically dropping, which last I checked it really wasn't by any means, why knock down the Antlered days and the antlerless? And why reduce the antlered tags for bowhunters and adding in crossbows? I'm a bow hunter, I value a skill that most people either don't have the patience to master or find too difficult. Why punish those that have been hunting for a long time this way? As it looks, the new proposed regulations re being written to limit the number of deer taken, as if there is a worry about the deer population numbers. Then why add in an effective weapon such as a crossbow during the archery session? I'm not sure where that regulation would fit into the other proposals considering it seems the goal is to limit deer harvested. I don't have an issue with eliminating the urban portions are looking at the statistics it does not seem that too many deer are harvested this way currently. My main thought is, if we down grade the days we can hunt and the amount of

deer we can harvest, and thus in turn most likely increase the deer population, aren't we just going to once again end up with a high population that is going to cause hazards to driving etc. Which will once again mean resolutions to the current conservation regulations in years to come, meaning we have this argument all over again. My argument is: is the current system broken or flawed? If not, leave it be.

I cannot say I really prefer the proposed new regulations. As a deer hunter that has limited time already, limiting the November portion makes no sense to me. I understand many hunters are able to go out opening weekend, but there have been many times I am not able to and having as much time as possible to get my deer is crucial. I also bow hunt, and use black powder to try and extend my season. Then there is a proposal to limit the number of antlered deer that can be taken during bow season, and adding crossbows. I am not very fond of that idea either. I understand MDC wants more hunters, but taking away my opportunity to but more meat in the freezer so another guy can kill a deer does not seem fair to me. If they want a longer season, they can learn to shoot with a compound bow. If the antlerless portion is shortened then I feel as though alternative methods should be lengthened to compensate. I do not understand trying to limit the number of deer a hunter can take, but trying to attract more people to the sport, seems rather counter intuitive if you ask me. The only idea I agree with is the youth season extension, however, I will not support that if the number of tags they can purchase increases. I feel as though it would behoove all hunters in the state of Missouri if we find another way to manage deer.

Limiting us to only one archery antlered deer is a huge turn off to me. Having the opportunity to harvest two antlered deer keeps me in the field during the entire archery season. This also allows me more opportunities to harvest more antlerless deer with more time in the field. I would be less likely to spend more time pursuing antlerless deer if I harvest my buck early in the season. I would support the change if I would be able to use an unfilled firearms tag in the second part of the archery season. This would still limit me to two antlered deer if I would be that fortunate and would allow me to enjoy the late season archery hunting.

Move gun season after the rut and don't destroy archery season with crossbows.

I agree with all of the proposed changes to the deer season starting in 2016. These seem like common sense changes to help restore our deer population. I especially like the expansion of cross bows into archery season.

I like all of the proposed changes to the firearms season.

Instead of reducing the antlered deer limit to 1 and allowing crossbows, keep the 2 antlered deer limit, but only allow 1 with a crossbow.

I hunted public land that is archery only, and heard about 5 gunshots on the property while I was bow hunting. I'm not sure what the penalty or punishment is for this, but I think if you are caught doing that, you should have your permit privilege suspended for 1 year, have to pay a \$500.00 fine, and have to pay \$25.00 extra for each permit you get for the rest of your life.

I don't believe that the youth portion should be extended. I think it should be eliminated.

I believe the allowance of crossbows during the archery season is a great idea. It will allow more hunters who have physical issues to hunt without seeking special permission.

The youth season move to the Thanksgiving weekend is also a good move.

I think the shortened seasons are OK but the standard portion should be moved a week earlier.

I think instead of only allowing one buck for archery season you should allow people to use their firearms antlered tag in the second portion of archery season if it was not filled during firearms season.

Reducing the November portion to 9 days is a great idea and season timing should stay the same as proposed. I understand reducing the antlerless portion, but question the rationale behind expanding the late youth season. I believe one youth season would be sufficient and hunting opportunities would be better spread across all hunters for any late antlerless portions. Why not make the antlerless portion 4 days like the urban season. Youth and adult hunters alike can take advantage of this season. The early youth season is a great opportunity to allow new hunters to hunt without the pressure of regular deer season. I will greatly miss the urban zone antlerless season as it was a great opportunity to harvest a deer early in the season allowing me to be more selective during the November portion. I realize this is a personal benefit and understand the rationale behind eliminating the special season since it had little impact. Has the State considered limiting hunters to just one antlered deer across all methods, and/or limiting the total number of deer harvest across all methods per hunter? Only exception would be land owners wishing to reduce deer populations with the assistance of the MDC. Crossbows during archery season is a gray area for me, however if the majority of hunters support the change then I am supportive, but I think hunters should be limited to one antlered deer and a total number harvested across all methods. I believe adding crossbow during archery season will significantly increase harvest and participation rates. I also have concerns of increased wounding of animals with crossbows. Overall the MDC has done an excellent job of managing the State's wildlife. Having hunted out of state in several western states; one greatly appreciates the quality of the MDC. Thanks, D.

I agree with all the proposed deer season changes except for allowing crossbows for archery season. I have hunted during the archery season for quite a few years. I always thought it required more hunting ability, skill and time in the field than gun hunting. I took pride in accomplishing this. Now if crossbows are allowed for everyone to use during archery season, it takes some of these skills and time out of the picture. In addition if one of the reasons to reduce the two bucks down to one per year for archery is to increase the mature bucks, in my opinion allowing hunters to use crossbows will make the opposite effect. While the number of bow hunters and shot accuracy increase with the crossbow usage, the number of deer taken will likely increase. It appears to me that a crossbow is similar to a short range rifle. I know the crossbows are necessary for some disabled hunters but I still believe that the crossbows should not be legal for everyone during the archery season.

I agree with the proposed changes for the 2015-16 deer season. I encourage you to keep the harvests high in the CWD area.

I agree with all of the proposals except the lengthening of the youth season

I am all for the changes to get our deer population back on tract. also I think the cross bow in archery season is a plus.

I agree with all the new proposed regulations and the reasoning. We need to get our deer herds back up to where they were a few years ago. The past 3-5 yrs. we have not seen many deer in northern Chariton county and southern Macon county where we hunt.

Thanks, M.B.

I believe the deer season is adequate as is and allows for an adequate management of the heard. I believe the youth season should be extended to allow youth an ample opportunity to enjoy the hunt. I believe that increasing nonresident permits would harm local business and decrease revenues, further I believe that landowner tags should apply and be available to residents and nonresidents as that would increase the hunter base. Even a landowner tag at a discounted fee for nonresidents should be considered as it would ultimately benefit the state financially.

FIREARMS: 1) Change Nov from 11 days to 9 days. I am OK with this. 2) expand and move late youth firearms. I am OK with this. 3) Reduce length of antlerless seasons. I am OK with this 4) Eliminate Urban zones portion. I am not affected by this, thus OK. ARCHERY: 1) Allowing crossbows. I am adamantly OPPOSED to this. Archery requires a skill. Crossbows are merely put scope crosshairs on target and pull a trigger. Same as gun, just shorter range. 2) Reducing antlered deer from two to one. I am adamantly OPPOSED to this. I have never killed two, but I have the OPPORTUNITY TO HUNT. How many hunters actually kill two? It couldn't save that many bucks, but reduces opportunity for every hunter that has killed one buck.

I am in favor of all changes except using crossbows during archery season. Those with physical limitations may already get a permit to use a crossbow. The rest of us should continue to use standard archery equipment if we wish to challenge ourselves by hunting during archery season. Rifle seasons are for those who do not want that challenge.

Please, just leave it alone.

I am for shortening rifle. I am for shortening (or eliminating) doe season. I don't mind crossbows, but won't use unless medically necessary. I am fine with reducing buck limit to 2, but would prefer a 2 buck limit, with the stipulation that only one can be taken with firearm allowing 2 by archery if possible. I am a trophy hunter, and a meat hunter. I shoot does for meat, usually. I think starting to move firearms season later would be a plus for trophy hunting, and would not hurt anyone wanting meat. I am a non-resident landowner. Approximately 400 acres in two counties. I pay more taxes than many residents, yet use few services. I believe that non-residents, especially landowners, should not be persecuted in the way of license fees. I invest lots of money in my property and habitat, and try to be a good steward of Missouri land. It would be nice to revisit the non-resident land owner tags, 1/2 of non-resident. I would love to see the cost of a hunting license reduced for all, including non-residents. I would love to start more youth, but the kids I would take are all from Indiana, and its cost prohibitive. I would also like for my wife to begin hunting with me, but she doesn't want to pay the high price of the non-resident tag. I want to thank the MDC, I hunt/fish all over the country as time and money allows. You are unequalled as Conservation Agency. Continue to protect your citizens' resource. Thank you.

In favor of all regulations until population is back to normal levels.
I support adding crossbows to archery season. Several of my friends have gotten older and struggle shooting accurately with a bow. This would allow them the option of still hunting during archery season and minimizing the risk of deer being injured and escaping. I have experienced shoulder issues and would like to take up archery but my doctor thinks it may create problems (my shoulder like to pop out of joint) that would have to be fixed by surgery. Crossbow hunting would allow me to spend time in the field during archery season that normally I don't have an opportunity to hunt.
Because I am getting older, I am in favor of allowing crossbows during archery seasons. I also support the other proposed changes. Thank you all for your hard work on behalf of wildlife and habitats in Missouri.
I am in favor of allowing crossbow use in archery season. I have had two rotator cuff surgeries and I am not able to use a regular bow. I am in favor of shorter seasons and limits when conditions warrant this.
I agree w/ all the proposed changes
I am for the shorting of November portion to 9 days. Crossbows allowed is good. Moving youth season u is a plus all the way around and lengthen it to 3 days also let the kids shoot unlimited doe. Kids love to hunt the more time you can keep them out and interested the better our hunting future will be.
I please let me know the reasoning behind eliminating the Urban Zone hunt isn't there too many deer in the Urban Zones? Also why expand the youth hunt? I agree with shortening the overall firearms season. I do not agree with reducing the antlerless season to 3 days unless there is specific biological evidence that there are not enough does. My experience in the woods and as a hunter is that there are not enough mature bucks. Thank you for your efforts
We own over 2000 acres here in McDonald county and we are very avid hunters in the last several years we have noticed our deer population to decline dramatically because of the number of doe tags given out. We try and manage all our properties for great deer and turkey hunting so it's not us hurting the deer it's all the neighbors filling every tag they have we need to limit the tags given out like Kansas Iowa and all the other great deer hunting states. One buck tag is all that needs to be given out until our deer number come back. Also we need an antler restriction in place state wide. Rifle season needs moved back one week so that our mature bucks are breeding several doe and not getting shot. Would love to talk more about this feel free to contact me.
I am AGAINST shortening the deer firearms season from the current 12 days to 9. I'm also AGAINST shortening the antlerless portion of the deer firearms season from the current 12 days to 3 days. I do FAVOR expansion of the youth portion of the deer firearms season to 3 days. The proposal "eliminate the urban portion" of the deer firearms season is vague, and it needs further elaboration. Not enough information has been provided to be able to form an opinion, one way or the other. I am fearful that completely eliminating the urban portion of the deer firearms season will not only have a negative impact on the annual deer harvest, but will also put

motorists at a higher risk for damage and injuries (and even deaths) from collisions with a higher population of urban deer. For the archery portion of the deer season, I'm in FAVOR of allowing crossbows as a legal method. I'm also in FAVOR of limiting/reducing the number of antlered deer from two to one during the deer archery season. Additionally, I'm in FAVOR of limiting/reducing the number of antlerless deer taken during the archery season to one.

I agree with all of them except the cross bow for archery. To me it is a gun. Not much skill. I hunt in Callaway county and our deer numbers are down. Hardly any does. Really need to cut back on the number taken. Without does there won't be bucks. I haven't shot a deer in years. I'm not so worried about killing one like I used too but even I have a hard time putting the hours in the woods when you don't see any. I have 2 daughters that hunt youth and by the time the Jan late season gets here it am normally super cold or they have lost interest. It's not the same as it used to be. I understand we had disease badly a few years ago but I think the unlimited doe harvest didn't help either.

I don't see an issue with the 9 days, Sat to the next sun for rifle. I would like the youth to back in Jan and rifle doe hunting in Jan as well. I disagree with the doe firearms portion from 12 days to 3. I'm fine with the archery season changes.

I think all the regs listed are great the way they are other than I believe crossbows should be allowed during archery season.

Agree with all changes proposed.

As a landowner and a praticer of QDMA I believe that the shortened 9 day season will have little impact. Aside from a small decline in the overall total of kills. In my opinion to have a positive effect it would have to be shortened to a 5 day season allowing only one weekend during the firearms season. A longer season would be welcomed if the seasoned were push back out of the peak rut, late November or December. After 11 days of gun pressure it takes the deer several weeks to return to normal movement. It is also very hard to grow a 4+ yr. old mature buck. It seems the majority of the three yr. olds we see get killed during that 11 day season. I completely support a 1 buck any weapon for the entire season. Kentucky has had good success with this rule and their rifle season is during peak breeding time. This is especially important if crossbows are made legal during archery season. This will allow more hunters in the woods during archery season and more opportunity to harvest immature bucks. I do not support crossbow during archery season. Thanks for taking the time to listen. K.

Instead of stopping the urban season consider lengthen it to allow more time to harvest does in the overpopulated areas.

I think all the season changes will be great! I support them all. I do wish you would hold some of the public meeting somewhere closer to Salem me, I'd love to attend but everything is 2 hours or further away. Seems like the opinions of people who live in rural areas (who are generally all hunters) don't matter?

I do not see anything I do not agree with, as a deer hunter I have noticed a lot less deer in my area and have to think that has something to do with all of the tags being sold. I also agree with

the crossbow being legal during bow season because after a shoulder injury I haven't been able to pull back and hold my bow and I would love to be able to go during bow season again.

I would hate to see a one antlered deer limit for archery, instead I would like to see two antlered deer before firearm season. I also don't think crossbows should be classified the same as long bow or compound bow, I think youth season should stay in current month. A lot of people look forward to a late hunt. I would also like to see a deer season in our state parks, at least a draw season. Long over do, I only killed one buck this season with a bow, but knowing I could harvest another kept me hunting and spending quality time in the woods. thanks, for listening,. R.S.

I really like the proposed changes you are making this year. I appreciate you not changing the regular deer firearm season in 2015 and hope it remains the same beyond 2016.

Absolutely do not allow crossbows during archery season. That is why they are included in alternative season.

I agree with all proposed changes. I feel the use of crossbows will both help with new hunter recruitment and keeping older aged or injured hunters hunting. 2nd youth season after thanksgiving is a no-brainer, all the moms are shopping anyway.

I would hate to see a one antlered deer limit for archery, instead I would like to see two antlered deer before firearm season. I also don't think crossbows should be classified the same as long bow or compound bow, I think youth season should stay in current month. A lot of people look forward to a late hunt., I would also like to see a deer season in our state parks, at least a draw season. long over do, I only killed one buck this season with a bow, but knowing I could harvest another kept me hunting and spending quality time in the woods. thanks, for listening. R.S.

Crossbows should be included with muzzle loader not archery. Non-Resident Landowners should at least receive a discount on tag fees, if not free. Antler minimums should continue. Get the licenses built into a credit card like system, eliminate the individual tags that continually get lost or damaged.

First, let me thank you for all that you have and continue to do for our state. I'm saddened by our legislators proposing bills this session that would limit your good work or limit your revenue. Per changes above, I'm fine with most, but wanted to pitch in on the Urban Zone and the Archery changes. With the Urban Zone elimination, that would put pressure on those of us who have limited time to take off work to 2 weekends instead of 3. And while I hear the comment that some cities are limiting hunting methods, I hunt in an Urban Zone that is unincorporated but within a mile of an interstate, so this issue does not apply to me. So why change a rule for something that is not causing an issue to anyone? What harm is it to keep it as is? If Chesterfield says no firearms, why does that need to then cause MDC to take away this season from Boone County? I'm also not in favor of going from 1 buck to 2 bucks in archery. Most hunters I know will harvest the first legal buck seen. The only 'selectivity' is whether it is legal or not. This was given as the reason. However, I think your practice will limit hunting opportunities and days in the field, which in turns hurts small businesses that rely on hunting. Please do not change this.

I agree 100+% with the new regulation changes and the reasons behind them. Antler restrictions should be gotten rid of as well. A trophy should be in the eye of the hunter. As the size of our bucks grow so do leases and lost hunting ground for average citizens thus hunter numbers will decline.(I own/am trustee for 1000 acres so this does not affect me but I have seen multiple times).

Shortening the firearms seasons is a good thing, but I'd like to see it moved to later in November too. I personally think youth season should be totally done away with; I do not think it does anything to promote a lifelong hunter or tradition of families hunting together. I do agree with the antlerless and urban proposal. I do not think crossbows should be allowed for the archery season. One buck is fine. I agree with CA area proposal.

As I noted earlier, I am opposed to crossbows in archery season. HOWEVER, bending to MDC's reasons for allowing crossbows, I would support allowing those 16 and under, plus those 65 and older, to use crossbows. Allowing everyone to use a scoped, trigger pull crossgun would dramatically increase the archery kill. On the only one buck with archery - instead, how about a 2 buck maximum by any method rule? Thus if I pass on bucks with a gun, I can continue to hunt with a bow for a second buck. This would allow me to keep the hunting opportunity I have now.

I diffidently against reducing firearms season to 9 days. I'm in favor of allowing crossbows during archery season.

The state south and east doesn't charge Missourian near the same amount for non-residents and only can get one deer, no turkey or anything. These states should charge you the same price. I try to come up to hunt with my son and if I hunt for one deer and one turkey it's nearly five hundred dollars plus gas and groceries. I just want to hunt with my son a few more years.

Crossbows should NOT be allowed as a legal method during bow season.

I am indifferent on the Antlerless and Rifles season changes listed above. However, I 100% disagree with the proposed youth season changes, crossbow, and archery buck harvest reductions. As an avid bowhunter, I feel that these regulations GREATLY impede on bowhunters and are giving the upper hand to youth/rifle hunters. I don't agree with the stance to allow crossbows and lower archery hunters' buck tags and I also disagree with changing the 2nd youth season. By allowing the 2nd youth on the end of Nov, you are once again hurting the archery hunters. Bowhunters already are selective in MO due to only being able to shoot 1 buck prior to rifle season. I don't think I have even shot 2 bucks with my bow, but it does allow bowhunters the chance during late season if they filled their early season buck tag. Maybe only one buck may be taken on either side of rifle season (i.e., you can't shoot 2 bucks after rifle) I have preached about how well MO's seasons are set and would hate to see new regulations stifle the wonderful deer hunting we have.

I am not in favor of limiting the archer limit from 2 bucks to 1. This seems like an option you have come up with based on the fact that if you change the methods to allow crossbows you will have more deer harvested and more hunters in the woods. I am in favor of Crossbows but believe it should be a total different season / tag. If adding another season (Crossbow) is a concern

because of to many bucks harvested. Maybe consider going to a tagging method like Alabama. Where you are allowed a total of 3 bucks per season. It doesn't matter which method is used as long as they are taken during the correct season. Meaning if you only bow hunt you could take 3 bucks during bow season, then you are done. Just another opinion. Thanks for listening.

I like everything except the antlerless portion. I understand reducing the number of harvest days. I would rather see it cover two weekends for the people like me who work every other weekend and may not be able to get the one weekend off I need for the antlerless portion. I would like to see it just cover the first two weekends of December.

While I am not a resident of Missouri, I own 150 acres there and hunt every deer and turkey season. I would ask that if the public does want to increase non-resident fees, some accommodations be made for non-resident landowners like it used to be. That said, I agree with all of the other proposals except the youth weekend. The youth weekend is generally just a weekend to extend Daddy's season and is horribly abused. The 2 proposals I STRONGLY agree with are keeping the rifle season date where it is and allowing crossbows for the archery season. I also like reducing the doe harvest and reducing the buck harvest to 1 archery buck.

I think all of the proposed changes are good ones except for adding crossbows to archery seasons. Crossbows have scopes and triggers and therefore belong in firearms seasons. I strongly disagree with any allowance for crossbows in archery seasons.

I am in favor of allowing crossbows during archery season. I think the Youth season should be longer than 5 days total. Children are the future of our sport and they should have more than just 2 weekends to get a deer. They should have at least 8 days to hunt (2 in Sept; 2 in Oct; 2 in Nov and 2 in Dec) This will allow plenty of opportunities for those children that participate in other activities. I am in favor of the changes in fewer antlerless archery permits. The antler less season should still run a full week with the same harvest limits. I think you should limit the legal harvest of bucks to 1(one) per hunter per year regardless of method taken. So, if a hunter takes a buck during archery season, then he or she can't take another buck the remainder of the year. This will allow more bucks to grow to mature size preferred by most hunters.

I am in favor of all proposed regulation changes. I hunt deer in Howard county every fall with a rifle and bow and have noticed the steep decline in populations, beginning 3-4 years ago.

Crossbows should be left off the list of legal use for bow season. Restrictions on use should not change.

Make it like KS one antlered deer per year and a four point rule state wide. Ok with changing the season dates. Make the joining states pay the same as they charge us.

I agree with the proposed changes other than raising the non-resident permit fee. If you cut the length of the firearms season, I'm paying more per day to hunt even if you leave the permit fee the same. \$225 is about my limit to where I buy a tag or not. If it goes higher, I might have to skip deer hunting or only hunt every other year.

Firearms Season: Reducing the November portion to 9 days is OK. Expanding the Youth portion and shifting it to Thanksgiving weekend is a great idea. No preference on the antlerless and

urban zones portions. Archery Season: Allowing crossbows is good. Reducing the antlered deer to 1 is very good. Conservation Area Regs: I always agree with MDC on Conservation area regulations

Hello, I'm a landowner in Ste. Genevieve Co. and a very serious deer hunter and manager. Our area around Bloomsdale has seen drastic improvement in overall deer quality since the antler restriction was put into effect and people started practicing QDM. Other than the EHD outbreak and too many does being killed, the deer herd remains pretty strong and the age class of bucks has improved. However, I do not see things getting any better than they are now unless things change. The November firearm season is the biggest reason for this. It is too long and timed wrong. Look around the Midwest at the best deer hunting states of Iowa, Illinois and Kansas, they do not have their firearm seasons right in the middle of the rut. That's why they have more and bigger deer. Missouri young bucks are being hunted at their absolute most vulnerable time, and most get killed before they ever reach maturity. So yes, reducing the length will help, but the firearm season needs moved to late November or reduced to about 5-6 days. Adding another youth season after Thanksgiving is a terrible idea. Our deer herd just had to withstand an 11 day firearm season and now you want thousands more to be killed by the youths a week later? Heck no. Youths already have a great thing going with their current season in early November. I have two kids that will be hunters and I still do not like this idea. As far as the archery regulations, I'm a real advocate of archery season because that's when the most serious deer hunters actually participate. Crossbows are becoming a huge part of the archery industry and sooner or later every state will probably adopt them, so why not Missouri. I don't think adding crossbows will really change much. When it comes to archery hunting, you either like to be out there or you don't, I don't think crossbows will equal many additional archery hunters like most people do. On the antlered deer restriction from two to one, please do not do this. I've honestly never met one single hunter who has filled all three of their possible buck tags in MO in my 25 years of hunting. I do not think the 2 archery buck permits is a problem. Again, it's the rifle season that kills off most bucks in this state, not archery season. One last thing. Almost every neighboring state around us charges an arm and a leg or makes you draw to even hunt deer in their state. Meanwhile, MO is like an open flood gate for non-residents to come over and kill MO deer. If you are worried about MO deer populations, this is the first place to start in my opinion. Require a nonresident to draw or fork out \$500 like we have to do if we go to another state. Never understood why MO was so passive on this issue considering how the neighboring states treat non-residents. Sorry for the rant, but I truly care about MO deer hunting and don't want to see things change for the worse. Regards, D.W.

I think we should go back to checking in our deer instead of calling them in I think a lot more bucks are being killed than are being called in. Also I think we should go back to the draw system for bucks for a year or two to build up the herd. Then shorten Archery season it is way too long & limit doe tags to 3 per hunter no matter what season it is Archery /Rifle / Black powder you only get 3 a year total.

I support any changes recommended by the professionals whose responsibility it is to make these decisions in the best interest of the resource and those that rely upon it. I would like to shoot 2 bucks (although I never have) but if the biologists say it's better for the population to not allow this I will comply. I would like more than 3 days to shoot a doe but if the biologists say we need to cut it back for the sake of the herd, I will comply. I will say that anyone that is opposed to crossbows during archery season has never shot one. The only advantage that a crossbow offers is that you don't have to draw it. With today's technology most vertical bow shooters can outshoot horizontal bow shooters especially at longer distances. Restrictions are to be put in place to protect the resource not to protect someone's ideology of who a bowhunter is or isn't or to keep the crowds at bay. I'll let the accountants decide what the best price is for an out-of-state license. I would be in favor of what collects the most revenue and that is not always an increase in price.

I feel none of the changes under consideration are positive. Allowing crossbows as a method during archery season is the worst idea I have ever heard.

I agree with every one of the proposed changes. Excellent.

I do not think it is fair to reduce our archery antlered tag to one antlered deer a year. I have yet to harvest an antlered deer, but I hunt on both public and private land. I like knowing I have an opportunity to harvest a deer on both lands where I hunt and not risk knowing that if I shoot one I will have to hold out. Having both any deer tags in my pockets forces me to buy antlerless tags, which generates more money for you as an agency. I like having both any deer tags, seeing as an archer my chance at harvesting a legal white-tailed buck is slim. I put more time into the stand than rifle hunters and yet you wish to reduce our tag limit? I do not see how this is fair and what is the just reason on doing so? I would love to hear your reasoning on wanting to limit our tags. Is it using to rifle hunters complaints? Our deer herd is healthy, growing stronger and making a comeback after our blue tongue scare two and three years ago. I would appreciate hearing what you have to say regarding the reason on wanting to limit our antlered deer tags to one for archery. Thank you for your time.

I would like to see the antler size restriction dropped, especially for landowners! This restriction allows for more smaller antlered bucks to breed than without the restriction anyway, defeating the purpose of it!

Landowner tags should be issued by the number of acres owned. If owning 75 acres gives you so many tags then why wouldn't owning double the acres equate to double the tags?

Sounds like a good idea but something even better would be to split the firearms regular season into two different weekends like Illinois and that would help as well. This would also help landowners with trespassers taking deer illegally from their farms during the week which is a huge problem as well. I don't think we should allow crossbows to every archery hunter but possibly allow adults over the age of 60. I'm ok with the late season moved to after Thanksgiving. I am also ok with the one buck during archery season. Another suggestion would be to be chang muzzloaders to REAL primitive weapons not the rifle like accuracy of the current muzzloaders. 9 day deer season is fine with me.

I don't think we should shorten the length of the firearms season, many hunters take Thanksgiving week off from work and hunt on Monday and Tuesday, typically the last two days of the season. Along those same lines many people are out-of-town on Thanksgiving weekend and may not be able to participate in the Youth hunt if changed. I support crossbows during the archery season but would like to see the limit reduced to one deer of either sex before firearms season and one after if using a crossbow.
I really like the changes you are making especially allowing crossbows. I will buy one and let my dad use it that no longer bow hunts, and then when my son gets of age he can use it before he can pull a compound bow back. Thanks for all you do.
I'm ok with the changes mentioned with the exception of the antlerless season. I would prefer that you cut it back to 5 or 6 days instead of 3. This gives hunters the opportunity to hunt around weather a bit. I'm especially glad you are making crossbows legal during archery.
It doesn't look like it's an option but I would like to see gun season pushed back a week or two so that it wasn't right in the middle of the rut. Also, I would be in favor of having a shotgun season instead of rifles.
Do not shorten or lengthen deer seasons from those set in 2013. Hunters need these season lengths to fit schedules of work and family obligations. Do not change archery limits.
Agree very much with proposed changes.
Agree with changes.
Crossbows have no business in archery season. No other concerns.
I am a land owner, land owners should be issued the antlerless tags to be used on their property not non land owners. I think you should take all the antlerless tags away from non-land owners, and give the non-land owners 1 tag for any deer. That any deer tag would be good for antlerless deer only on the first weekend, after that it would be an antlered deer only. It used to be this way years ago, it was a good idea. I think a lot more does would survive, and with the 4pt rule bucks would get bigger.
Agree with changes.
Please leave the two buck rule for archery the way that it is now. I very seldom take a late season buck but by having the tag I will be motivated to go, without it I would miss going and getting the enjoyment of being out at a great time of the season. Please lower the pressure on the antlerless deer.
I do not want to see any changes to the Archery season or methods, period! If you want fewer bucks killed then don't allow crossbows. simple! I do not want the Firearms season reduced to 9 days. Just limit it to bucks only.
No crossbows in archery season. Move back gun season to the first week of Dec. Nonresident tags to be reciprocated (what Kansas charges me, Missouri charge a Kansas resident).
As an avid Mo hunter these propositions read as a joke. Mo needs to raise its non-resident fees closer to bordering states and take the rifle season out of the rut so deer can make it to mature ages like our bordering states. Two youth seasons in 30 days is ridiculous. I agree with the

archery tag as it will make hunters second guess before shooting a one/two year old buck. Also no crossbows unless doctors permit. With the CWD and the past Blue Tongue the population has decreased dramatically in certain trophy areas and changes have to be made to grow the population and age of the deer. Thank you, T.

I heard about this from MDC's email. I believe all the proposed changes are okay except the Antlerless days from 12 to 3. That's drastic change in number of days. What if those days are poor hunting days? At least make it 6 days (either 2 weekends or 1 week long)

1. I support MDC proposals. I support whatever is good for the herd on a PURELY scientific basis, whatever the science indicates, do the right thing. 2. I would like to see the "early" youth season discontinued. I feel it's a time for cheating adults to bag bucks earlier in the rut.

I think the non-resident price is way too high. I live next to the Kansas border and know many people that have move across the border but only live 8-10 miles from their family's land and have to pay \$225 to hunt with their family. I can see it being that high if it was public land but for private land that the landowner pays taxes on it is way too high for someone to come shoot a deer. The season length is fine. There are a lot of hunters that only have certain days off. Not all hunters are lucky enough to get off work to hunt during the week. Please don't allow crossbows in the archery portion to anyone other than those that need it with a valid disability. The 4 point restriction was the best decision you guys ever made BTW. The bucks around my area have been much better as of late.

Agree with changes.

I struggle today finding time to hunt and by reducing my opportunities I may no longer be able to hunt. Like the idea of reducing archery buck harvest to one and can probably manage the regular firearms season going from 11 to 9 days but I try 9 with the help of my grandson) to harvest 4 does each year from my lease and reducing this season may keep us from achieving that target. MY feeling is that deer populations will increase with the other changes and you won't need to come back and change it again in 5 years when again we have too many deer.

I do not agree with the archery changes. Hunters can use a crossbow with special consideration currently which is fine. I don't want anyone to be allowed to use crossbows unless medically necessary. I would like to see the antlered portion to stay the same as well.

Most of the proposed changes I do not agree with. I think shortening the seasons (antlered and antlerless), unless there is a sound population-based reason to do so, is not good conservation. I've not seen any evidence of the population being "too small" as there seem to be plenty of casualties on our highways (a sad waste) and plenty of presence and damage done to property from them (animals have to eat too, but that doesn't make it any less expensive to deal with). As a working professional, my available time to hunt is largely restricted to weekends and shortening the season would basically cut my meager hunting time in half. I do think allowing crossbows during archery season is likely a good change, though. Thanks for your time.

I do not agree with the archery changes. Hunters can use a crossbow with special consideration currently which is fine. I don't want anyone to be allowed to use crossbows unless medically necessary. I would like to see the antlered portion to stay the same as well

I heard about the changes via an automated email from MDC. Regarding the length and timing of the firearm season, I support shortening it to 9 days and I also support keeping the timing the same as it is. I would not support moving it out of the rut. Regarding the youth portion change, I support this also as January is not an ideal time to introduce new hunters when the weather is bad and deer movement is low. Regarding the Antlerless portion, I would support eliminating this season if the deer population needed it, but shortening it is also a good move. It think this change would allow archery hunters more late-season opportunities to hunt without worry about firearms also. Regarding the Urban portion, I have hunted this season every year and enjoy it, but if the population needs to increase, this is an obvious season to cancel. Very few deer in the Columbia, Jeff City area that are hunted in this season are in a truly "urban" area so it's not really accomplishing that goal. While I enjoy this season, it should probably be eliminated. For the Archery changes, I strongly support allowing crossbows. They are allowed in many other states, and I think it would allow a lot of new people to enjoy bow hunting that do not have the time to become proficient with compound bows. This would be a great change and I support it strongly! Regarding the archery antlered deer limit, if the biology supports this, I would support this change. However, I don't personally know many hunters that harvest two bucks with a bow, so I'm unsure how much effect this would actually have on the population. Finally, the conservation area changes appear to be common sense and would make regulations easier to understand.

I am in support of all recommendations with the exception of I like the antlerless portion at thanksgiving and the Friday following because I am off. I am in agreement of shorting length for sure. How about make the youth hunt at 1st part of December but keep the two days as is now but weather will be warmer than Jan. Other than the antlerless being moved after Thanksgiving I support and welcome all recommendations to increase deer herd and bring more bucks to an older age class by restricting archery limits.

I am in agreement with all the proposed changes for the 2016-2017 season except one. I do not agree with allowing all healthy archer's without any physical disabilities to use a crossbow. I have done some research and personally witnessed the amount of wounded animals that are not recovered that have been shot by a crossbow. I think people in general feel that they do not have to concentrate as much with a crossbow as they do with a traditional bow to make a good ethical kill shot. So if you are trying to build the deer herd back up within the State I do not see where this change in the regulation is going to help you in this endeavor! Finally I would like to see one of these Public Meetings a little closer to the Richland area because I would like to attend one to hear what everyone has to say. Thank You.

Regarding non-resident permits, I grew up in Missouri but now live in Virginia. The MO non-resident fees for deer season are pretty steep as they are. If your goal is to keep the out of state

hunters away, leave them as they are or increase them. If you want some out of state money, lowering them a little would help.

I agree with all of the firearms changes being considered. My only issues are small ones pertaining to the archery changes. I feel that an archery only hunter should still be able to take two antlered deer in a season. Perhaps if you give up your rifle any deer tag, you can gain a second archery any deer tag or something like that. My only other concern would be that if the number of archery hunters increases after crossbows are allowed (as the data suggests) the ability to get a large number of archery antlerless tags, could further reduce the number of does in the population, and further exacerbate the population's decline.

I like the idea of one deer with a bow. Youth season needs to be moved out of the pre-rut, earlier would be better. Increasing the out of state tag will help for multiple reasons. People would be more serious about taking a mature buck and letting young ones go. Reduce the hunting pressure and make hunting better. With time people will be willing to pay more for out of state tag because of bigger bucks and less hunting pressure. I think Missouri should go to one buck take a year, not one for firearm and one for archery. Look at what other major hunting states are doing around the Midwest.

I rarely speak up but over recent years I have started deer hunting less and less. In fact, I don't even gun hunt any more after 20+ years of being out there every opening weekend. I now find myself hunting less and less and one major reason is the early youth weekend falling on the absolute best bow weekend of the season. I am all for youth hunting, in fact I took multiple kids to the duck blind with me this year but the reality is you are killing bow season by rifles blasting off all over the country, guys taking their wives nephews step son in law out and letting "him" take that big buck he's been watching during early bow season. Scheduling another season right on the heels of rifles season further impacts the bow season rut opportunities! I argue kids would have a ball whenever you scheduled it...so why greatly impact how hunters? I won't dive into crossbows but question whether that's really fair either.

All proposed changes are fantastic and I like the FACT that MDC bases changes on scientific findings and not political pressure. I am really excited about adding crossbows. I have a torn rotator cup and do not feel comfortable holding my compound bow on an animal. I also do not want to see my doctor for a medical excuse. I look forward to bow hunting again soon.

I would love the alternative portion to extend into January; end of Dec. is still holiday time. It's usually cold deer don't move too much. Extend it to the 15th.

As the population stands right now we as a state need to reduce the kill numbers. Anything you do that increases the kill is counterproductive. 1. Increasing the youth portion will increase the kill. Leave youth alone. If you do anything PLEASE end the second youth. I do have kids. 2. I am fine with shortening rifle to 9 days. 3. Limiting the bow to 1 antlered deer down from 2 is ok. 4. Definitely limit the antlerless portion as much as possible. 5. Adding crossbows will only increase the kill **DO NOT ALLOW CROSSBOWS**. Modern crossbows have kill ranges out to 60-70 yards and are deadly accurate. I have shot several. Non-resident permits are way too cheap and are too easy to get. If I want to hunt Iowa or Illinois I have to pay a lot more after I am

drawn for peak season. I hunt with rifle and bow in 3 counties and the numbers are low. I spend a lot of time in the woods. Ste. Genevieve, Texas, Pulaski

I will not be able to attend any of these meetings but I am in favor of using a crossbow during the archery season, reducing the antlerless portion to 3 days. I would like to see the gun season moved to earlier in November NOT during the rut. Make the changes for the 2015 season; don't wait until the 2016-2017 season.

1. Maintain timing and reduce to 9 days, OK. 2. Expand youth late portion and move to day after Thanksgiving, NO, it would interfere with Archery hunters. 3. Reduce length of antlerless season, OK. 4. Eliminate Urban Zones, not sure what this means, there should be advantages to Archery hunting in Urban areas. 5. Allow crossbows during archery season, NO, except by age youth or senior or disability. 6. Reduce archery buck limit to only 1, Not sure, I would like to see how many are actually taken after rifle season compared to before rifle season. Rifle season already has the advantage of being targeted around the RUT. 7. Simplify conservation area regulations, it does not sound like anything is simplified. Any method could be available and dependent on the specific area. How is this simplified? You would have to figure out what area you will hunt then the specific methods allowed. 8. Non-resident Fee, competitive not comparable. They are much cheaper than neighboring states and many of them are drawing only after residents.

Still in favor of moving the firearms season out of the rut. Start it after Thanksgiving. Do not have a big issue with crossbows. Don't think reducing the Archery tag to one buck will have much effect. Very few Archery hunters take more than one buck and even fewer than that after Firearms season is over. I do not think our fee for Non Resident tags is in line with our neighboring states. Don't know of any other state that you get two Turkeys and two bucks for \$225.00. Take a look at Ks, Ill, & Iowa. I feel a big percentage of the issues could be handled with just moving the Firearms season later so the bucks are not chasing does all over the 40,80, ect. farms and getting shot out of truck windows while they are roaming around. Not a Biologist, but have been trying to manage our 300 acres for 30 years and this is the issues we were facing. It is rare to get a buck past 3 1/2 yrs. with things as they are. I truly believe moving the season would afford the opportunity to get another year or two age on some of the animals.

I support the proposed changes in deer management, and I think that the recommendation of the biologists should be followed in all situations related to the health of Missouri's wildlife populations.

Keep archery, as archery only. If a hunter needs a crossbow have then get a medical license and use one like it is now.

I feel we need to get the gun season further closer to December to stay away from the rut. Anything to support the youth is great. A shorter antlerless season will benefit the herd better. I have no issues with allowing crossbows other than people riding around with a cocked crossbow. We need to limit the antlered take in any fashion; one antlered deer with a bow is good. I am an avid archery hunter myself. We should make the non-resident fees reciprocal with the state they

reside in to be fair to everyone. If I pay \$500 to hunt in Iowa then they should pay the same to hunt in Missouri. We are very inexpensive in comparison to the states that are around us.

The Urban season is needed, especially to control the doe population. It could be effective in unincorporated areas in Greene County such as where I live.

I like most of the changes; however, the rifle season still needs to be moved. Maybe the last week of Nov. running into 1st week in December. Please move the muzzleloader season.

1. Vigorously opposed to crossbow inclusion in archery season beyond those with medical exceptions. Modern compound bows are more than sufficient for youth to enter into the sport. I choose to hunt with restrictive methods as a fair-chase personal choice. Missouri has a long tradition of rewarding those who hunt with archery methods with a longer season free from inclusion with those who choose easier methods. I hunt primarily during archery season to avoid the crowds as well as danger associated with firearms season. I don't see any need for crossbows other than medical exceptions. Please don't allow crossbows into archery season. It will ruin Missouri's archery heritage. 2. Please continue to keep the 2 antlered bag limits during archery season. Part of the allure of archery season is the length and multiple opportunities. Instead, why not impose the antler point restrictions state wide for all seasons including archery to limit the number of bucks (especially smaller bucks) that are taken. 3. These proposed changes negatively target archery hunters in favor of firearms/crossbow hunters. Please keep the archery tradition alive and well as it has been. 4. I am in favor of the proposed changes to the youth and firearms seasons. Please consider expanding the antler point restriction for all methods and seasons except the youth season.

I agree with most of your changes but the crossbow change and using them during archery. Any would you cut back antlered deer for archers when you're basically allowing an almost firearm capable weapon to be used during archery. Leave the crossbow use for Hun season as it has always been the case. I know the crossbow makers have lots of money pushing their product but you folks will be looked at in a much better light of you don't succumb to their wishes. Archery is not crossbows.

The Urban season is needed, especially to control the doe population. It could be effective in unincorporated areas in Greene County such as where I live.

I'm all for all the changes, except dropping the archery buck limit to 1.

I agree with all of the proposed changes. I'd like to see the amount of archery antlerless permits reduced. The deer herd is in serious decline. I know it will never return to the levels of the late 90's but I'd like to see a few more. I spend at least 100 hours on stand each year and I don't see very many until the rut are in full swing.

Eliminating Urban zone firearms portion: I bow hunt close to home in an urban zone. I am teaching my kids the value of hunting. I am not clear on what the proposed change means but I would like to hunt during firearms season with my bow. Crossbows should be limited to firearms only season. 1 antlered deer changes should not be made. Reduce length to 9 days is good. Keep youth hunting where it is. Thanks.

The Urban season is needed, especially to control the doe population. It could be effective in unincorporated areas in Greene County such as where I live.

Eliminating Urban zone firearms portion: I bow hunt close to home in an urban zone. I am teaching my kids the value of hunting. I am not clear on what the proposed change means but I would like to hunt during firearms season with my bow. Crossbows should be limited to firearms only season. 1 antlered deer changes should not be made. Reduce length to 9 days is good. Keep youth hunting where it is. Thanks.

I agree with and understand each rule change with the exception of the crossbow. I feel that adding the crossbow as a legal method of taking a deer during archery season, would counteract your measures and reasoning for limiting the firearms seasons. There is already a way for people who can't draw a bow to use a crossbow and I would even support adding a youth crossbow age, but not anyone to use one. How about introducing a longer trapping season to allow trappers like myself to trap when fur is more prime.

Leave the length of the seasons the same, regular and doe's only. Youth season should only be doe's only, that way we would not have a 10 year old girl sitting behind a 10 point buck and her dad behind her smiling, get real who do you think shot that deer?

I think you are spot on with every proposal, because they still allows great access to hunt from Sept-Jan but at the same time increase management practices for QUALITY deer. I think you could even push back rifle season 1 week to further enhance deer/buck breeding. Missouri needs to be known for quality deer like Iowa and Kansas and get away from the "It's Brown it's Down Mentality." Quality over quantity is what Missouri should focus on.

I like the change to the youth season to the Friday after thanksgiving. I don't think the number of days need shortened for the gun season just the number of available tags? I'm a nonresident and own land in mo. My cousin is a resident and he can get all the tags he wants for doe archery. Now you want to limit me to one buck with archery! It is extremely difficult to kill that second archery buck after the gun season. Had my place three seasons now and have yet to do it. I have more bucks than does in my area of Boone county. Bourbon township. I have also not killed a doe in three years of hunting there.

I am in agreement with all of the proposed changes with the exception of allowing crossbows as legal methods during archery seasons and reducing the number of antlered bucks during archery season. I am 100% supportive of reducing length and limits of rifle seasons, whether regular November portion or antlerless portions as well as moving the youth season. Thank you for all that you do. You will not be able to make everyone happy in your decisions, but as an avid hunter, both rifle and bow, I would love to see some modifications made.

I am not in favor of reducing the length of the antlerless firearms portion from 12 days to three days. I like having two weekends to hunt for antlerless deer and the weather that time of year is not predictable. I am in favor of having it start the first Saturday in December, not Friday. Some of us are unable to take off work. Additionally when my kids are old enough to hunt I would like to be able to take them more than just a few weekends. They will need all the opportunities they

can get. I agree with the other proposed changes and appreciate the opportunity to give my opinion.

I think the changes are right on. Only thing I would like to see in new regulations is the season end on Dec. 31st. seen too many does harvested in January with pretty big fawns inside them already.

I support all of the proposed changes.

I agree with all of the proposed changes. I do like the idea of crossbows being allowed. I think the current regulation do prevent younger hunter and older hunters who cannot pull back a 45 lbs. bow the opportunity to hunt.

Antlerless season reduction: Disappointing, but reluctantly support if the biologists insist it's necessary to achieve population goals. This is a very important season to my family. It's the season we use to fill our freezer. One bad weekend of weather could significantly reduce our venison supply for the year. We buck hunt during the November portion (rarely taking any - we're very picky), and doe hunt in the Antlerless season. I do wonder if this change is really necessary given the reduction in antlerless tags that has already been implemented. I also wonder if the longer season length should be retained in the CWD zone. Allowing crossbows as a legal method: Mild support. I am unlikely to use one, but I don't buy the arguments against this proposal. I am saddened by the acrimony surrounding the topic. I will say that the argument about prolonging participation for older hunters seems a bit weak given the existing option for a medical exemption. Reducing the limit of antlered deer during the archery season: Strongly oppose. The percentage of bow hunters that harvest 2 bucks is very small. This regulation change would result in a statistically insignificant reduction in the buck harvest. The argument that it will help more bucks reach older age-classes is compelling but seems weak in the CWD zone and in counties with antler point restrictions. If the legalization of crossbows is being used to bolster the argument for reduction in archery buck limit, that would swing my opinion on crossbows to "Oppose". Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

November Firearms reduction, ok. Moving Youth Season, Excellent. Antlerless reduction, instead of reducing time, reduce the number of permits allowed. Urban - I live west of MCI airport, and see the carnage on I-29, I-435 & M-152. It is dangerous and expensive. If we don't have an Urban, how can we control deer population close to Interstates? Crossbows - Excellent, that would replace Urban for me. Urban is all close shots due to the trees still being leaved out. And, I'm mid-60 and know what's coming. Reduce archery bucks - No big deal, I'm not a trophy hunter. See you in Blue Springs.

I am good with all the firearm changes. I am in favor of the crossbow changes but I would like to see the buck tags remain at 2 for archery in all the years since I was 14 and started bow hunting I have only killed two bucks maybe three times. I do however think that since it is early enough before deer season that the crossbow should be started in the 2015-2016 season.

Whatever MDC does is fine by me. I also have a Farm in Monroe county and like the help they have given my family.

I heard about the above proposed changes to deer regs via a direct e-mail from MDC - surprised that was not listed as a possibility above? I am okay with the proposed Firearms Season changes, but don't have real strong feelings about the same. Re: the Archery season changes, I am very strongly in favor of both changes. I have never, but would like to start, archery hunting, but am getting of an age I would rather buy and hunt with a cross bow rather than a traditional bow, and would be able to hunt with the cross bow to a much older age than with a traditional bow. Re: the change to one archery buck only - very much in favor of - I never understood why two bucks were allowed - I would imagine most archery hunters also firearm hunt, so these people have had the ability to kill 3 bucks per year - too many. Thx

I like/ would recommend the changes. I see why the changes are needed/ necessary from hunting this year. I like them, and think they will help hunters/ future hunters in the long run.

I'm hearing a lot of talk about limiting everything. I have been a hunter and conservationist my entire life. I have taken many ecology classes and attended numerous seminars. I endear stand the premise behind these changes, but I feel as though they might not yield the results you expect. I agree with enabling hunters to use crossbows. It will get more people in the woods, and expose many people to bowhunting who otherwise would not have had the opportunity. I strongly disagree with limiting the archery hunter to one buck. This will inevitably reduce the number of hunters after firearms season. It will affect areas revenue, and will limit the number of children/new hunters who are being exposed to the outdoors. I personally know many hunters that simply would "hang it up" after firearms season, if that took effect. Also, I the biggest impact you could have on our deer herd, would be to move firearms season back at least a full week. This would get more people involved in bow hunting, and will allow a lot more deer the chance to reach maturity. I again disagree with the shortening of firearms season. You know the number better than I do, but I would guess that more than +50% of deer hunters strictly gun hunt. Why limit their opportunity to hunt? Our goal should be creating an environment that promotes the hunting culture and the bonding experience people share while in the outdoors. Why risk limiting people's exposure to that? Numbers of hunters have been on a constant decline. Let's not speed up that process. Thank you for listening to my opinion. D.H

Hello, I just received the email of the proposed changed. Some I approve of and others I don't. The part of reducing firearms season from 12 to 9 days, I don't care for. I'm a disabled hunter and some years I don't harvest a deer until the last couple days. Also, what about the Alternative season? Is it still happening and is there any changes with it. I also use a crossbow for archery season due to disability. I have a permit on file with MDC. What does that mean if they change that you can use a crossbow? Does it eliminate the need of me having a permit to use a crossbow? I think they should have firearms season the whole month of November. This year the rut was already in by the time season started. If the season started at the beginning of the month then hunters would have hunted right when it started. I say extend the season, but keep limits as any deer tag and only one bonus tag for the entire state. I hunt in Iron county and I'm only allowed 1 deer. There is plenty of deer to allow one bonus tag. I depend on the meat to supplement our food for the year. Thank you for your time. D.H. I am conservation!

I am not in favor of maintaining the current firearms season dates but I am in favor of reducing the days. I enjoy seeing deer and experiencing the rut as a bowhunter. MDC should take a page from the book of IA and IL for growing a mature and healthy deer herd. Push the firearms season dates back until after Thanksgiving. We will see a healthy deer herd and more mature bucks. Do not expand late youth portion. Youths can hunt during the firearms season like everyone else. I have children and I see no purpose in the youth seasons especially at the end of October. Reduce the antlerless portion, yes. Eliminate the urban zones season, no comment. DO NOT allow crossbows during archery season! This will only increase danger in the woods with uneducated people with loaded weapons and increase deer harvest. I believe in the sport of bowhunting. It takes dedication, skill, practice and time. Anyone can shoot a crossbow/gun. Limit the number of antlered deer to 1 for archery season. Yes, I agree that this will make people more selective in choosing what they shoot and result in more mature bucks. Simply conservation area regulations, yes. Thank you for your time.

I think the reduction of days in the general firearms season is a good thing. 9 days is plenty to hunt during that portion. As an avid bow hunter, and am perfectly fine with the reduction of the buck tags to 1, especially if the crossbow is allowed during this season as well. I think this is the right thing to do overall. In 18-20 years of bow hunting I think I have taken 2 bucks in a season twice, and that was early on. I simply will choose to take an additional doe if the need exists to harvest additional animals for meat. I do think this is going to create a significant reduction of hunter time in the field after rifle season though. I would think most of the bucks taken by bow are taken prior to rifle season, and if there is no option for that 2nd buck in hand, I can see many of the bow hunters of the state simply not hunting any more. I will likely fall into that category. I will hunt as long as there is a buck tag in my hand. Eliminating the Urban Zones seasons is a good thing. Harvests appear to be very low. I hunt in Jackson county and can hunt during that time, but never do with a rifle as the bow season is in session. Overall I am fine with the addition of the crossbow during archery season. I wasn't initially, but I have a very good friend that can't hunt with a bow anymore due to physical limitations and this opens that season back up to him. I think it's a great way to start youth off during these seasons too. This will be a good thing overall. I think the price of the Non-Resident tag at \$225 is about right. I am sure the market would allow it to be higher. I have a friend who comes from out of state to hunt each year, and he would pay a higher price to continue to come, but I am not sure it's a necessary thing to do.

I am not in favor of changing the length of the current regular firearms season because it is a big money maker for our state and it is an event that many people look forward to each and every year. I am in favor of moving the late youth season up right after Thanksgiving as it will draw more young hunters than the January season. I also would like to reduce the antlers portion as I believe this will have a beneficial impact on our whitetail herd. I do not support removing the urban hunting zone portion because I think this has been a benefit to urban areas to help reduce deer populations both to prevent overpopulation but also to reduce vehicle crashes. I think it is a great idea to allow crossbows as a method for archery and will draw many new individuals into archery hunting and increase our out of state revenue. I do not support reducing archery antlered

deer harvest to 1 because I cannot foresee a benefit to the overall deer herd from this action. I believe the 2 antlered options is a big draw for many archers who see it as an opportunity to pursue another trophy buck after they have already harvested their first antlered deer.

I support the allowance of crossbows during the archery season. I hunted for years in Arkansas with one and no detrimental effects were ever noted. I support the 3 day youth hunt after thanksgiving and eliminating the January one. I support the shortening of the modern gun season and the antlerless portion. I am neutral about the one buck archery limit, as that is all I harvest now is one antlered buck prior to modern weapons and do little to no archery hunting afterwards. I think, however, that the state should entertain a two buck limit regardless of method.

Rifle season changing to a nine day season is ok with me. I think that would help with the population a little also reducing the firearm antlerless season to three days should help. MDC should be able to tell easier by looking at deer harvest totals during the proposed change times and make the appropriate change needed for management. I think the MDC is a little out of touch with how Missouri hunters are able to hunt, more specifically during the thanksgiving weekend and over Christmas. More hunters are forced to lease ground or hunt conservation areas because land is too expensive to purchase in part to the popularity of hunting shows and land being bought up by guides. The urban portion poses separate problems as people living there don't like the deer population but also don't like the thought of someone hunting on their property. It is going to take those people to change their mind if they want to help themselves. Archery season crossbows should be allowed for youth until age 15 and seniors 60 and older unless they have an impairment that does not allow them to shoot a bow. Reducing the buck limit to one for archery is ok but I think the deer limit should be three total with one being a buck.

I am in favor of the proposed changes.

I think the Crossbow reg will be a good thing. I have a Med permit because of shoulder. The one buck in Archery would be a good thing also. The Antlerless portion would be a good thing also. I use to look forward to Muzzle Loader season I hunted up north around Memphis when you moved it to Dec; you lost me because of Weather. Weather was also a problem after Thanksgiving. I would like to see it moved to October or go back to old season. The Non-resident permit fee should be the same as the State where the Hunter is coming from, like Iowa, Kansas & Oklahoma. The Gun season should remain the same as far as Days.

I would like to address some of the proposed changes and give my opinion, keep in mind that I am coming from a standpoint that Missouri's deer population has fallen below desired levels as stated several times in your proposal. Firearms season - If you want to grow the population, having firearms season during the pre-rut and rut phase is a bad way of doing that. Not to mention it does not help increase the quality and age structure for our bucks. I believe that firearms season should be pushed back a week or more Iowa or Illinois. This will allow the "dumb" rutting bucks to bred and get back into their normal life cycle before rifle season. I know this would not be popular with gun hunters at first, but when they start seeing 180" bucks taken regularly because they have had a chance to mature, their minds will probably change. Expanding Youth Firearms Season and changing the date - This is a great idea, it's very hard to

hunt that late season youth season with kids as the weather is usually too harsh for them to enjoy it. Reducing the length of Antlerless season - I think this is a good solution to help, but honestly there's not that many deer taken during that time. Will it truly have an impact on the numbers? I'm not so sure. Eliminating Urban Zones- I don't see any real issues with this, but I don't hunt those areas so I don't know how it would impact those that do. Allowing Crossbows during Archery Season - IF the goal is to bring the deer numbers back up, now is not the right time to implement this. I'm not necessarily 100% against it but it goes against the plan to increase the population. Bow hunters will still hunt with our vertical bows, but you will see a dramatic increase in traditional gun only hunters transitioning to hunting with a crossbow because of the extended season. This could have a major impact in numbers and amount of pressure the deer will see. Personally I feel crossbows belong in the Alternative methods portion as the advantage shifts much more in favor of the hunter. I don't know how MDC could propose changes that are meant to increase the deer numbers and at the same time approve this regulation change. In the future, when the numbers are back to a surplus, then I think we could revisit this. Reducing the number of Archery Buck tags - Mixed feeling here. Bow hunters put way more time in the stand than gun hunters. In general, they work much, much harder for their trophies as you can't just set up on a field edge and pick a buck off across the field. We have to scout, find good stand locations and only hunt them in the correct wind. Getting a mature buck to follow the plan is pretty tough. It would be interesting to see what percentage of bow hunters fill their second tag at this point. I think if that is allowed, we should be allowed to use our rifle tag for the remainder of archery season. I don't gun hunt anymore, so having a rifle tag is pretty worthless to me. There are states that do this. For example Wyoming Antelope are handled like this. Your tag is good for archery season and firearms season. Simplifying regulations on MDC land - Please and thank you! Non-Resident permits - The plan states that Missouri is competitive in price with surrounding states. I don't see it that way at all. Kansas \$347, Illinois 300(firearm) 410 (archery) and Iowa \$551, plus draws and other difficulties. All of these are for 1 deer. Missouri, you can get 2 bucks for \$225. That's a bargain for out of state hunters. Not to mention guaranteed tags. This has lead the it being difficult for many residents to find hunting ground as most of the good land is being leased by out of state people. Missouri needs to get in line with these other big buck states and raise their price to be in line with them. I also believe we should have a limited draw system for non-residents, this would help in limiting the amount of land out of stater's would be willing to lease since they wouldn't be guaranteed a tag every year. This would benefit the residents of Missouri, which I believe should be the goal of the MDC. I understand out of stater's bring in revenue, but is it worth it at the expense of Missouri resident.

I think on the non-resident deer permits you should charge the same as the state the non-resident is from. That would be the most fair for all hunters. And as for the crossbow issue I think they should be legal during archery season for all to choose. Also 1 buck is a great idea during archery season.

I think on the non-resident deer permits you should charge the same as the state the non-resident is from. That would be the most fair for all hunters. And as for the crossbow issue I think they

should be legal during archery season for all to choose. Also 1 buck is a great idea during archery season.

I don't prefer crossbows being allowed during the regular portion of archery season. At this moment in time crossbows are pretty comparable in terms of accuracy and effective shooting range to compound bows but I can envision a scenario when crossbow technology will greatly eclipse compound bows. Archery should be a skill game and I don't believe that crossbows reflect the skill level necessary to qualify.

I would definitely support the use of crossbows in the archery season. This would allow more opportunities for handicapped and young hunters who otherwise could not bow hunt. Additionally, the use of crossbows may spark a new interest for people who have not previously bow hunted. I would also support extending the late youth season. This would provide more opportunities for the next generation of hunters. I do NOT support the reduction in the number of allowable antlered deer for the archery season. Many people will stop hunting once they no longer have the opportunity to take a buck. Allowing a hunter to take two antlered deer keeps a sustained interest in bowhunting for the entire season. Finally, I do NOT support the proposition to shorten the length of the firearms deer season. Many people who have full time jobs are hard pressed to put enough hours in the tree stand as is, and taking off one day will only make it harder. Furthermore, it seems that our deer herd is getting better every year, and I do not believe that one day of firearms season will make much of a difference. Thank You, N.K.

The Conservation Department does an excellent job of managing the herd in our state and it is very appreciated by my family and friends. I would love to see the crossbow be allowed during bow season. I'm approaching 60 and I'm just not as limber as I used to be. A compound bow is fine when it's warmer but all bundled up it's tough. I bagged a buck during rifle season because my bow hunting season was much shorter than in the past. Thanks for everything you do for the hunters. Sincerely, L.Q

Firearms Season Changes: •Maintain the current timing of the November portion and reduce the length to 9-days. I agree, this will not impact most hunters. •Expand the late youth portion to 3-days beginning the first Friday after Thanksgiving. This would be great and allow youth hunters a better opportunity and also will happen when many youth are off of school already. •Reduce the length of the antlerless portion to 3-days and begin on the first Friday in December. No Opinion. •Eliminate the urban zones portion. No Opinion. Archery Season Changes: •Allow crossbows as a legal method during the archery deer and turkey season. Absolutely not, with the sophistication of crossbows in this day and time they are as accurate and lethal as some of the first inline muzzleloaders. Unless the hunter has a disability they should not be allowed to hunt during the archery portion with a cross bow. I could see allowing youth hunters and those over the age of 60 to use cross bows, that would be fair. •Reduce the limit of antlered deer during the archery season to . I like this idea, this could really increase the number of mature bucks in the future. Conservation Area Regulations: •Simplify conservation area regulations by limiting methods and use of firearms and archery antlerless permits. This would be great, simplicity.

I strongly agree with all proposed changes.

I like both ideas on bow season changes. I like the change of 11 days to 9 on rifle season, and the change to antlerless season besides moving it to start in december. I don't like changing the youth season, I don't like the much of the other changes. I would like to say the doe population has taking a large hit. The last 3 years I have seen 1 doe forever 5 bucks. I hunt in Montgomery county. I really think we need to cut back on doe harvest some more. I think one doe and one buck for each season is enough for a person. Thanks S.

I am in favor of the firearms season changes. It is good management to change the regulations, when necessary, to achieve the goals desired by hunters, land owners, and the public. I am in favor of changing the buck limit during the archery season to one from two. I am opposed to allowing cross bows during the archery season except for persons with handicaps or the elderly. Archery seasons started out of a desire to have a season for "primitive" weapons. A devise that holds the string at full draw and allows for a scope does not fit the criteria in my opinion. I am a lifelong firearms hunter as well as an archer, so I am not biased by bow or gun. Just the intent of what the season was supposed to be about. I am in favor of rules related to conservation regs. Thank you very much for the opportunity to comment on these proposed changes.

I think that making crossbows a legal method for archery season would be a mistake. It would most likely increase the harvest during the archery season. It seems like that would be counterproductive to limiting each archery hunter to one buck should you choose to do that. With today's highly efficient and very well designed bows a young person doesn't have to be very strong to pull back a bow that is very capable of dropping any deer as long as they have been properly instructed. If I remember correctly, elderly or disabled people are already able to get a crossbow permit for archery season if they have a doctor's excuse. That is acceptable. Thank you for the opportunity for me to put my input into this.

I support the proposed changes to allow cross-bows, and reduce the number of archery antlered deer to one. I do not support the proposed changes to shorten the firearms and doe season lengths. I would want increased opportunities to hunt not less. If the biology data shows a need to decrease harvest, I would suggest limiting the number of does or even one buck across archery and firearms.

I believe all the proposed changes are warranted if not overdue.

I agree with the proposed regulation changes with the exception of reducing firearms season from 11 days to nine days. The current 11 day season allows hunters more flexibility in the days that they can plan to hunt. Since a person can only harvest one buck anyways, why eliminate two days that from their calendar that they may be able to schedule a hunt? Otherwise, you could completely eliminate firearms hunting for someone that couldn't fit their hunt into the proposed 9-day season.

I am for all of the changes, except the reduction in archery buck tags. The buck numbers taken after the November firearm season can't be that high, and I for one will not go out after gun season and brave the weather without the chance at a buck.

NO! I work for a living and I look forward to getting into the field every year to relax. I shoot 1 deer a year and very rarely will take a second one. I need the length of the season to be longer not shorter!

I understand the need for the proposed changes. However cutting back the archery any-deer tags to one will in some years cut my season in half and that's ok if that's what it takes to ensure the health of the deer herd. What I would like to see proposed is that the any-deer firearm tag could be used in late season archery if it's not filled during firearm seasons. Also I would forgo a gun tag for an early season and a late season any-deer archery tag.

Please do not enact these changes. As someone who works weekends, eliminating the last two days of firearm season will cut my hunting in half. Same thing with the antlerless portion. If it only goes from Friday to Sunday, that season may as well not exist for me. Please keep us folks that don't have a Monday thru Friday schedule. Also, eliminating the second any deer tag for archery is very limiting. As a bowhunter and landowner, I really enjoy the flexibility that having two buck tags gives me.

I agree with shortening the length of the firearms season but would be more in favor of moving it to Dec 1 to get the firearms season more out of the rut. Not in favor of expanding youth season. I believe they are offered plenty of time and chances as it is.

Please do not enact these changes. As someone who works weekends, eliminating the last two days of firearm season will cut my hunting in half. Same thing with the antler less portion. If it only goes from Friday to Sunday, that season may as well not exist for me. Please keep us folks that don't have a Monday thru Friday schedule. Also, eliminating the second any deer tag for archery is very limiting. As a bowhunter and landowner, I really enjoy the flexibility that having two buck tags gives me.

Do not need 2 youth hunts that close. I have grandchildren and have enjoyed youth hunts and look forward to taking them in the future. We do not need to pressure our woods with guns for all of those days so close. As far as buck management, I feel bow hunters should still be allowed the 2 bucks. Crossbows should still be regulated in some way, they are deadly accurate and continue to emphasize killing over hunting. With a higher degree of difficulty as with a bow, hunters spend more time in the woods thus gaining a greater appreciation for hunting and the outdoors.

I have been a hunter in Missouri since I was a child. My grandfather left me land and I am a nonresident landowner. I do not like the reduced length of the November portion from 11 to 9 days as it is already too short compared to other states. Expanding the late youth season is a great idea for my children to get more of chance to hunt. I would be an advocate for crossbows as a legal method as I am using one in Tennessee because I have shoulder trouble which prevents me from using my compound. I would be more inclined to hunt on my own land in MO and buy an archery tag if this crossbow season opens up. Which means more money for The MO Conservation department. I also have been paying full prices on nonresident tags which I think is way too high. If we could reinstate the old NON RESIDENT landowner discount if you owned land and showed proof that would be a benefit. You are penalizing nonresident landowners who

pay taxes in MO by paying full price on tags. Please reevaluate this as I inherited this land and want to hunt more it is just so expensive to hunt up there.

I do not like changing the days to hunt. Hunting season to me has been something that I treasure and get to spend time with my father and expect my son to be able to do the same. By changing the amount of time to hunt you are limiting that experience. Also, I am a trophy hunter as well as providing meat for my family. Again, limiting the time that I get to spend in the woods limits my chances for providing. As far as the archery comment, I feel like people who are bow hunters will not care about the crossbow addition. That will just allow more hunters to take advantage that may not have in the past. Personally I do not understand why there is a need for change. Where I hunt; southern Taney County, the deer are very plentiful and they need to be hunted. I strongly oppose any changes to the rifle season in general. "If it ain't broke, don't fix it!"

I am in favor of all proposed changes. I'm a huge supporter of our conservation dept. and its goals.

Crossbow is a great idea.

Crossbows are awesome and great idea.

As long as the fall firearms season covers 2 weekends, I am fine with reducing to 9 days. I believe too much emphasis is on the youth hunts. They already have a better season b/c the wildlife isn't "stirred up" when their season opens. Leave them to hunt in January as the extended season, and leave it for 2 days. Why shorten the regular season and lengthen their season? Doesn't seem fair to me. Please leave the antlerless portion as 12 days. Some people do not see many deer or have many opportunities to hunt. I would reduce the limit of antlered and antlerless less deer to 1 each. The conservations rule of unlimited antlered deer for several seasons has inflicted great harm in our deer population. I would like to see archery season reduced. Instead of it going into January, let firearms open up in January (1st-15th).

Maintain the current timing of the November portion and reduce the length to 9-days. I agree with this and would like to see that change. I'm predominantly an archery hunter and there has been a lot of encroachment on that season if you hunt on public land by all the other firearms seasons (especially in urban counties), special weapons seasons and the month long firearms turkey season. I commend the youth seasons however. Expand the late youth portion to 3-days beginning the first Friday after Thanksgiving. I'd rather see it in January. Reduce the length of the antlerless portion to 3-days and begin on the first Friday in December. I'd rather see this in January too but I'll go for the reduction to 3 days. Eliminate the urban zones portion. I would like to see them go away, yes please be done with them. Allow crossbows as a legal method during the archery deer and turkey season. I'm what am now referred to as a "traditional" bowhunter; I use selfbows, longbows, recurves and even throw the atlatl. I lobbied hard to keep compounds out of the archery season way back when. I was younger, headstrong and a bit of a purist in those days. I've matured some since. Compounds did not hurt archery hunting, I do not think the inclusion of crossbows into archery season will be much different in the end. However, I do not like those crossbows do not need to be drawn by the hand of the archer at the moment of truth. Getting inside an animal's comfort zone, drawing the bow unnoticed and then making the shot is

part of archery hunting's romance and mystic. Crossbows taint that considerably. Reduce the limit of antlered deer during the archery season to 1. I keep thinking about this and it serves no real purpose. Is it to help rifle hunters agree with crossbows during archery season? If so, then think long and hard about keeping crossbows where they currently are and NOT placing them in the archery season. Simplify conservation area regulations by limiting methods and use of firearms and archery antlerless permits. Yes.

Move firearms season out of the rut. Changing the length of the season is not going to do anything. Everyone I know and talk to wants better bucks and the best way to do that is just like every other big buck state that surrounds us and not has the firearms season during the rut. Move it into December. I also don't believe we need an additional firearms antlerless season. The deer numbers are down regardless of what you want to tell us I spend countless hours afield and have for years and have watched the deer numbers decline.

I hunt in both Missouri and Kansas and as you know Kansas adopted crossbows as a legal means. I supported the move, but I have since changed my mind. More crossbow hunters (and hunters) in the woods crowds out traditional archery hunters. The ability to have the bow pre-cocked is an advantage in stealth for a first shot, giving an advantage to crossbow hunters. I've seen able-bodied men switch from a compound bow to a crossbow in the pursuit of trophy bucks. I fully support disabled or elderly hunters having the ability to gain an exemption to hunt with a crossbow, but I believe that adding it as a legal means for all during the full archery season is a mistake. A separate season for the method is more appropriate in my mind. As for limiting the harvest to one antlered, if someone can take 2 antlered deer by using a firearm for one and a bow for the other, I think they should be able to take 2 deer with a bow. I would also like to see data on how many archery hunters fill both tags. If 19% of antlered are taken by archery, I doubt this will make a huge impact. Shortening the firearm season where 81% are taken, and taken from greater range, will likely have more impact. I'm also a lifetime permit holder for Missouri, both hunting and fishing. I bought the permit as a means of support for conservation, and the convenience of not having to buy a license annually. There isn't really a financial advantage to purchasing the license. One change that I believe would increase sales (and you could raise the price potentially) is to adopt the Kansas method of allowing lifetime permit holders who move out of state to continue to buy deer/turkey tags at resident prices. I believe that would incentivize more people to buy the lifetime permits. And to answer your question, I have no plans to move at this time. Thanks for asking for the input, I'm glad to be able to comment on the issues. M.W.

I agree with the proposed changes, as stated in the MDC outline more liberal seasons and limits were in response to changing herd populations and we need to be open minded to more stringent restrictions if the herd population indicates regressive numbers. I hunt deer every available season, I also agree with the archery hunter numbers growing and being more successful, look at the improved equipment for bow hunting as well as scouting equipment and all aspects of hunting equipment. Technology is great and has improved hunters chances of taking game, seeing game, and staying concealed and comfortable, but we don't those advantages to destroy the sport and life style we all enjoy. Please keep the youth seasons as liberal and as lengthy as

possible as we all agree that is our future for hunters and conservationist. Good luck and thank you for your consideration.

I would like to see the firearms portion of the deer season moved out of the rut to mid-December. This will greatly improve the quality/quantity of mature bucks in our state. This impact will affect the desire of non-resident hunters to travel to Missouri, as it will rank with Kansas and Iowa as a true "Land of the Giants"! We already have a "good" population of mature whitetails in our state. Moving the season would allow them to mature, as the rut makes all deer readily visible.

I apologize, I hit the submit button before I was done with my comments so this is the second one. Reducing the antlerless portion I am in favor of. No comment on Urban zones. I would agree with allowing crossbows for deer and turkey but I would not be in favor of reducing the limit to one antlered deer during archery season. I believe the way it is set up now is very good. One each season. I would also agree with simplifying the regulations in conservation areas. As far as the cost of the out of state license. I believe it is about right as it is in line with other states. However, if the antlered deer were limited to one, I would like to see the permit price drop as well for out of state hunters. My own personal reason is I own land in our beautiful state just for deer hunting and I spend a lot of money in the local area for the wildlife. Fertilizer, services, gas, food, other supplies, not to mention I pay taxes and electric bills all benefiting Missouri economy. And the wildlife greatly benefits by all the food plot and habitat projects I create on my property. Compared to the state I come from Missouri does a great job with its conservation efforts especially with deer and turkey. To close. Thank You!

Go back to 9 days two weekend main season is fine. Then two different weekend (4 day; Friday thru Monday) seasons after the youth season on thanksgiving weekend. Alternative season is too close to Christmas with all the busy holiday season.

I do not see any problem with the proposal.

Start firearms deer season December 1 for 9 days

Firearms season: Changing to 9 days would be fine I believe the only people that even hunt the last two days are local people that live on their own land. I still would like to see the November firearms season pushed back towards the end of November even Early December. The meeting I went to years ago that was a very strong topic and I haven't seen a change yet. I mostly archery hunt that would give us more time in the woods before everyone gets out there and deer are spooked for the rest of the year. The early youth season I believe should be doe only. I'm strongly in favor of the youth season but I have seen on too many occasions where dad is out hunting and not the child. Also teaching the kids how to hunt and respecting the outdoors is not about shooting a 160 class buck on the first time out. I think it takes some of the fun out of it and what does that child have to look forward to in the future. I think crossbows still should only be used when you are not physically able to pull a compound or recurve bow back. I'm in favor of only 1 buck tag for archery, yes I'm a trophy hunter but I also want meat I shoot my doe early in the season so I can concentrate on buck hunting the rest. I'm all for a healthy deer herd but I also have a passion for trophy deer. I would like see the state take steps to make Missouri a trophy

deer state as well as keep populations under control. I think by moving firearms season back and making the youth season doe only this can be accomplished.

Reducing length of November gun season would be good. changing the timing would be good also so it would not interfere so much with the rut. Giving the youth only more chances & better weather to hunt would be good. Reducing antlerless season length would help populations rebound. Eliminating urban hunting would be bad I think it should be lengthened to 9 days to give more chance for a greater urban harvest. Only allow crossbows for youth or handicap in archery season. The crossbow can already be used in all of the other seasons anyway. (a stock with a trigger is not archery). Reducing the antlered deer in archery season to one would have a very small impact on overall buck harvest & age class especially in comparison to how many overall & younger age class bucks are taken in the November gun season & also the amount of button bucks that are taken from all seasons.

As a lifelong deer hunter, who has seen both the best of worst of Missouri Deer Hunting, I believe, these following changes should be implemented: 1) Move firearms deer season to one week later in November. 2) Eliminate doe days. 3) Move the first Youth Season to mid-October. Thank You, D.C.

In favor of reducing firearms to 9 days, move 2nd youth to Thanksgiving weekend, eliminate Urban Portions, especially Columbia MO & Boone Cty, reduce antlerless season to 3 days, in favor of crossbows for archery, in favor of 1 buck per archery season. I cannot attend the March session so I'm inputting my info here. Thanks! Doe numbers down a lot past 2-3 years need to limit the harvest; need to let bucks grow and I like keeping gun season in November like it's always been. Need more predator reduction in coyotes and bobcats.

Deer herd is about 25 percent of what it was a few years ago in our area. I strongly support your effort to cut back the harvest while still maintaining balance in the herd.

Raise non Missouri resident buck tags to \$500.00 a tag doe tags to \$400.00 and youth tags to \$100.00 or a draw system for non-Missouri residents to limit out of state hunters

Yes reduce the length to 9 days. Expand late youth portion to 3 days GOOD. Please reduce antlerless portion to 3days. No opinion on eliminating urban zone portion. YES ALLOW CROSSBOWS FOR DEER HUNTING DURING THE BOW SEASON, THIS CHANGE WOULD BE GREAT FOR BOWHUNTERS LIKE ME WHO ARE OVER 70 YEARS OLD. I thought that you could only shoot one antlered deer during bow season?

I would agree to most changes to limit the deer count in this area. The deer have become a real bother to plants and trees in my area. Also they are a danger to all motorists. You have my vote on anything you can do in order to make things better. How about a FREE hunt. No permits needed. You would of course supervise along with our Police and Troopers.

I do not like neither the crossbow as a legal weapon for archery season or the antler archery tag limit to one. It looks like the goal with the proposed changes would be to increase the herd count. If crossbows become legal, maybe limit that user to one deer tag only like the any deer for firearms season. The other proposals are OK with me. Thanks.

I think everything that has been proposed is great except for the late season youth hunt. I know a lot of kids get rifles for Christmas and it's nice that they get a chance to use them. I would love to be able to use a crossbow for archery but it that happens the number of antlered deer definitely needs to come down to 1 also. I also think out of state tags should go way up. We have plenty of hunters in Missouri. I'd be willing to pay more for my tag if it means I'm competing against fewer hunters.

I don't care about deer season honestly! Please consider changing our duck season dates, especially in the north zone! It's terrible!

I kill deer to eat them. I think it is wrong to kill a deer for a trophy. If you look at the deer I have checked since moving to Missouri you will see I pass killing bucks because does taste better. You want to increase the deer population you do that by killing more bucks and less does, trophy size older bucks should not be the reason for limiting kills to one buck. It's crazy to allow crossbows but not allow shotguns, that is just plain stupid. You can't convince more deer will be wounded and unrecovered from a shotgun than a crossbow. You guys seem to just pull shit out of the air on what is legal and not.

I disagree w/ the proposal to allow crossbows during the archery only portion of the season. Part of the challenge in archery is preparing for the shot (getting set and drawing your bow). While a crossbow has a much shorter range than a traditional firearm, it removes this challenge from the hunt, and to me is no different than a pre-loaded firearm, much like a pistol. I also disagree w/ ending the urban zone portion of firearms season, strictly due to known deer numbers in urban areas.

I don't think you should shorten the firearm season if you do make muzzleloader season longer. Crossbow during archery season that would be great if you going to reduce our doe tags for archery lease three doe for archery season. Just want to add should make the whole state of Missouri A four-point rule

I am an avid November Firearms Deer Hunter. However, I have rarely if ever had a strong desire to archery hunt due to the restrictions of not allowing cross bows as a means of hunting during the archery season. I fully support MDC's proposal to allow crossbows as a legal method to hunt for the fall turkey & deer season. This inclusion in our hunting sport will increase participation in statewide hunting activities, increase permit sales & consumer spending on hunting related items. This will generate a positive impact on the MDC & the economy of the state of Missouri as a whole. Thank you for your time & allowing me to express my opinion.

I support the proposals as described. I think crossbow inclusion should happen sooner. Why the need to wait? I fully support a one buck rule and think the doe harvest should be reduced. Allowing bonus tags in multiple counties is ridiculous. An example I can by only one doe tag in my county and then go buy one for another county. Another person can do the opposite how does that reduce doe harvest it the same number of tags. Changes need to happen in 2015-2016 seasons quit dragging this out.

I agree with all of the firearms changes. I disagree with the archery change, to allow crossbows during archery season. I am primarily an archery hunter, and take pride in the trying to harvest bucks during the early portion of the season in October and the early week of November. This is the best time to be in the woods in my opinion because there is a much smaller group of hunters (less pressure) and hunting during this time is when bucks are often seen roaming, seeking, and pre-rutting. Allowing the use of crossbow will open up archery season to many more hunters, but I feel that the increased pressure will put a sour taste in many traditional and compound archery hunters' mouths. If the use of crossbow is seriously being considered, I would recommend only allowing them during late archery season (after gun season) through the last day in January.

Moving the season to after the rut would be best. A draw system for other states would be nice. Crossbow legality would be very nice. No season length alterations.

I appreciate the opportunity to write you regarding potential crossbow legislation/regulation that is being considered in Missouri. I am writing you today on behalf of the United Bowhunters of Illinois, a non for profit organization established in 1995 to represent the interests of Illinois bowhunters while promoting outdoor ethics and traditional values. Our organization, along with all other prominent bowhunting organizations in IL and in the U.S. (North American Bow hunting Coalition, Compton's Traditional Bowhunters, Pope and Young Club) all oppose the use of a crossbow as a devise for bowhunting and thus respectfully oppose the proposal to allow crossbows to be a legal weapon within the Missouri archery season. This opposition is founded on many reasons, but fundamentally based upon the fact that crossbows are a high impact weapon. The inclusion of a high impact weapon in archery season would create unpredictable harvest data. Additionally, the regulation of high impact weapons (such as crossbows) with low impact weapons (such as traditional bows) could ultimately shorten a deserved longer season for traditional bowhunters. If the Missouri hunting community collectively wants more crossbow hunting opportunities, I would suggest creating a separate season for the weapon. This way, these high impact weapons can be regulated separately, which will allow more opportunity for game management while protecting the recreation hours established by low impact weapons such as traditional bows. Thank you for taking the time to read this communication. I sincerely appreciate your time and I hope you will consider the negative impacts that an open crossbow season would have to bowhunting. Sincerely, B.J. United Bowhunters of Illinois

Deer populations are not consistent across the State, and your changes should reflect that. Broad brush changes will not fix the problems that have developed in areas like western Perry and Southeastern Ste. Genevieve Counties. Also, please eliminate the antler point restriction. Regulations should be based on the science of managing the herd, not based on the whims of the "trophy" hunters.

I agree with and support all of the proposed changes.

No crossbow for the healthy hunter. I like the regular firearm season length. Get rid of the antler less season. I don't hunt does but do like the extra days.

I agree with most proposed changes, other than crossbow. With modern technology anyone healthy and easily capable of pulling a bow back should in my opinion. If you want to hunt with

a fixed stock than that's what alternative methods is for. Bow hunting is a style of hunting all its own and not done because it's easy. When everyone that decides they want to spend \$1000 can shoot a deer at 80 yds. without any practice it will change the challenge that comes with bow hunting. Whether or not crossbow is allowed I feel like it should be differentiated from bow hunting. I hunt public land so my opinion might be different but I enjoy my time without everyone trampling through the area.

I think there should be no extra doe season, and the rifle season should be the first week of Dec.

Applaud the effort to limit antlerless permits and help maintain healthy populations of deer. I feel use of crossbows should remain limited to those with a physical disability. I would also like to see more muzzleloading and archery only areas in southern and central Missouri counties. I feel this will help maintain a better population as well. As for non-resident fees, they should be competitive, yet realistic. If we have too many out-of-state hunters the price needs to go up. It's all about proper management of the deer population.

Point-by-point: Maintain the current timing of the November portion and reduce the length to 9-days • Will this have much of an effect? I suspect there is a minority of harvest happening during those two days. It would also eliminate hunting opportunities for folks who have vacation during Thanksgiving week rather during the main part of the season. Expand the late youth portion to 3-days beginning the first Friday after Thanksgiving • I'm afraid you're setting the kids up to fail by putting youth season immediately after firearms season, as (it seems to me) deer haven't "settled down" from all the human intrusion. • This would also likely necessitate a move of the first youth season forward in the calendar a weekend or two to maximize opportunities for youth based on parents' schedules. Moving the second weekend of youth season to Thanksgiving weekend will put parents in a position of taking their kids out four of five consecutive weekends with the current timing of the first youth season. • If the urban hunts are eliminated, then why not move youth season to the former urban weekend? Usually weather is not an issue (other than warmth). Reduce the length of the antlerless portion to 3-days and begin on the first Friday in December • I'm fine with this. It will obviously reduce the take on antlerless deer, but changing the timing until after Thanksgiving will result in more bred does being taken. According to your figures most breeding is done in the early rut, about two weeks prior to the proposed timing. Changing to after Thanksgiving seems a bit counterintuitive, though it would/should obviously increase overall herd numbers with the reduction of does being harvested.

Eliminate the urban zones portion • I live in a county with an open urban season (Franklin County), but I do not have access to an area to hunt. I think the urban zone idea is good but it has relatively poor harvest numbers, especially in Franklin County. I think this idea is a "wash" for population boosting or control numbers. Archery Season Changes: Allow crossbows as a legal method during the archery deer and turkey season • I'm fine with allowing crossbows for archery and turkey seasons. Reduce the limit of antlered deer during the archery season to 1 • I'm fine with a one antlered deer limit for archery. Conservation Area Regulations Simplify conservation area regulations by limiting methods and use of firearms and archery antlerless permits • Don't these regulations already exist? It's pretty easy to tell what methods

are allowed for what areas with minimal research through the published booklets and the internet. This seems like a problem in semantics and syntax, not regulations.

I wish to share some of the ideas my family, friends and fellow hunters have been discussing. The main topic has been on the issue of allowing crossbows to be used during the archery season. We have strong feelings that allowing the use of crossbows during archery season is a "very" bad idea. My family, wife and two sons, live on a rural farm in the Ozarks. We all thoroughly enjoy the outdoors and hunting, especially deer. My youngest son, age 11, and I are avid bow hunters. Since our family is fortunate enough to have a nice farm for hunting deer we like to share this opportunity with others. My son has four of his friends who also enjoy shooting bows and are fortunate enough to have fathers who help them develop these bow skills. Last summer and fall we spent a lot of time and outings developing their shooting skills. During this last fall season we were very fortunate to enjoy many, many bow hunts together. During this time we strongly emphasized to these young kids' hunting ethics and standards, we even limited their shooting ranges to 20 yds. due to the fact they still required time to develop their shooting skills and range competencies. Even with a fantastic season, none of the kids were able to get a deer. This brings me to our point of our contention. If the proposed regulation of allowing crossbows were allowed, and if we hypothetically allowed these young kids to use them, the whole hunting scenario changes. With the use of traditional bow archery equipment, there has to be much, much practicing and greatly limiting the shot distances. If we hypothetically put a crossbow equipped with a scope in these kids hands, sitting in a tree stand with a shooting rest, or a blind with a shooting rest, virtually "NO" practicing is needed and any deer within a 40-50 yard range is potentially a shot deer. It boils down to aim and squeeze the trigger! The point is this, we believe a crossbow with a scope and the use of a shooting rest is as close to a "GUN" as it gets, whether used by kids or adults. We feel allowing its use will change the traditional dynamics of the archery season and its perception by the public. We are strongly opposed to the proposal of allowing its use during the archery season. Thanks for allowing us to voice our opinion.

I definitely am in favor of being able to use a crossbow during archery season. I'm 66 and at my age hunting with a compound or recurve bow is no longer safe. During the alternative portion I want to muzzleloader hunt. Have you considered a special tag for the alternative season? Now I have to save a tag from the firearms portion.

For the fall firearms deer season, MDC proposes: • Maintaining the current timing of the November portion but reducing the length from 11 days to nine days.- Agree. • Expanding the late youth firearms weekend from two days to three days and having it begin the Friday after Thanksgiving instead of early January, I do not like this change because I think it gets abused by adults. Keep the late portion after the alternative weapons season. • Reducing the length of the antlerless firearms portion from 12 days to three days and beginning it on the first Friday in December. Agree. For the fall archery deer and turkey season, MDC proposes: • Allowing crossbows as a legal method - Do not agree. Reducing the limit of antlered deer during the

archery season from two to one. Agree. Make our non-resident rates equal to the average of the adjoining states. This would be fair.

No problem with the 9 day season. OK with the proposed youth season change. Do not agree with the use of crossbows being legal. I think the use of crossbows now is being very much abused by people that are able to hunt with a regular bow. I think it is great for people who have some type of a medical problem and this is the only way they can hunt, but I know a lot of people who abuse this. I also think there will be a lot more deer crippled if everybody can use a crossbow because they will have the mentality they can shoot at any distance. Bow hunting is a very special sport and with the new bows with all the great letoffs there is no reason unless you are truly handicapped that you could not bow hunt if you really wanted to. Allowing two bucks I think is ok. One before gun season and one after and I think is very fair, I don't think the number of bucks killed after gun season with a bow is that great anyway. I wouldn't care if you would end bow season Dec. 31st. instead of Jan. 15. A lot of the does that were bred early are carrying baby deer.

I think a lot of changes need to be made with our hunting regulations. I support and agree with all changes being set forth by the commission except for the urban portion. I think we should keep this season in tact as it stands as there are still a large number of deer in core areas that are not accessible during other seasons.

I agree with most of the changes. You should also go back to requiring people to check deer in person at a check station. Especially archers. A lot of them are being shot with a gun during the youth season. One reason for the spike in bucks being checked by archers. Should also illuminate early youth season. Youths can be introduced to hunting deer like the rest of us were on opening day. Keep the late hunt to give them another chance. By the way I am an archer. I also approve of the use of crossbows. The deer check stations were not only a way to check deer but were also a social event. I have heard a lot of deer hunters say that they miss the check stations.

I like most of the changes or at least have no problem. But I do think non-resident permit could use some changes. One that affects us is our son lives in Arkansas and has buy non-resident turkey and deer permits. With both costing \$225 and \$500 per year to hunt our FAMILY farm of 328+90 acres. Plus buying nonresident hunting and duck stamp and bird stamp. It does have a big effect on what he does or does not hunt on our FAMILY farm. I really like to see something or some kind of discount to family members to just hunt on FAMILY farms. I am okay with \$225 but when you're charging non-resident land owners, families that pay tax in Missouri and spend money help with wildlife management of family's farms we should have some less cost. I know it would take work to make sure everyone is buying the correct tag but it would sure help us out.

I do not wish to see the firearms season shortened and I do not want to see crossbows added to archery season. If anything they could be added to firearms. Everything else I think is a good idea.

If this is what you all think is best for the deer herd, then I have no objection. The changes to the youth portion are welcome. A few thoughts: I wonder whether lowering limits will also lower the

number of people who go afield at all, and end up reducing the harvest more than you might be expecting. I know that for at least a few of us, lowering limits reduces our willingness to travel as far in the state. It isn't worth going all the way to Princeton (deer heaven) for only two animals. If there are to be no firearms in the urban areas at all, it seems there's no safety reason to "interrupt" the archery season in those areas. Simplification is fine, but for the ordinary guy, not the professional or former Marine Scout Sniper, the effective range of a bow is around 100 feet; for a muzzleloader around 300 feet; for a "deer rifle" 900 feet at most. I note that the effective range of a shotgun / slug is also around 300 feet; realistically somewhat less. If the motivation behind the portion/weapon regulations is "manage the harvest" & "safety" why then restrict shotguns to the "rifle" portion? Do you think many shotgun owners would go hunting the week between Christmas & New Year's Eve? Would black powder enthusiasts feel somehow cheated? I've seen research suggesting solid blaze orange is more visible to other hunters than the camo / breakup blaze orange. OK, fine maybe there's even a measurable safety effect here. I am wondering whether requiring sleeves when used in a blaze orange breakup pattern addresses safety concerns and hunter concerns. Vests are not very visible from the side -- I should think that adding even 60% sleeves would greatly increase visibility and not sacrifice too much hunter stealth. Is there any research on this? What are other states doing? I am already on your e-mail list; Thanks for all your good work. Time to get out scouting. T.

Going to a 1 buck limit does nothing except make you a big horn state. There is no biological reason to do something like that. I have yet to see a buck have a fawn. Cross bows should be made to have a separate season. If you have problems you can shut that season down. I think it will be more acceptable to hunters.

I fully in favor of full crossbow inclusion in archery season. I am also in favor of limiting to one buck tag. As far as gun season goes I am in favor of shortening it, however I think it needs pushed into December and out of November. I am in favor of expanding youth season. I am in favor of simplifying conservation area regs by limiting methods; however I would want crossbows included.

After reading your proposed changes I have the following comments: 1). The 9 day firearm season is good idea. In addition, the season should be moved to a later date (late November or early December until the herd is at a sustainable number). 2). I am not in favor of moving the youth season to the day after Thanksgiving. What good does it do to shorten the regular firearm season to 9 days but then have an additional 3 day youth firearm season during the November rut. This makes no sense. If you are wanting the youth to have more positive encounter deer hunting have the season in September or early October when the weather is more desirable. 3). I am in favor of the 3 day antlerless portion in December. I am also in favor of eliminating the season unit the deer numbers increase. 4). The urban zone firearm portion should be eliminated. 5). Archery season - I am in favor of the use of a cross bow for the reasons that was listed. 6). Reducing the antlered archery harvest from 2 to 1 at his point is not warranted. First, how many archers actually harvest their second antlered deer? Second, I think an increase of 8% over 13 years doesn't throw a red flag up that the harvest of antlered deer during the archery season is

having much of an impact on the breeding season. I am not sold on this idea but open for more discussion / data on this subject. 7). I am in favor of conservation area regulation changes. My question is what regions are mainly going to be impacted. I have property in the Northeast part of the state and would like to see muzzleloading and archery methods only on the some of those conservation areas. (Deer Ridge would be one) 8). The non-resident deer hunting permits cost needs to increase. I believe that one of the reasons our deer herd number are not as healthy as they could be is because of the cost of the non-resident tag. Individuals come from all over the country to hunt whitetail deer in Missouri because how cheap the tags are. Look at the cost of Illinois, Kansas, and Iowa. Another consideration would be to have a non- resident draw system for both firearm and archery. 9). In addition I want to thank the MDC for the wonderful resources this state has and the quality of hunting and fishing we have. The department does a fantastic job!

I would be in favor of a rule change to allow crossbows during Bow Hunting Season.

I'm OK with the proposed changes and would like to add an antlerless portion for Ste. Genevieve County where I hunt. I would also like to eliminate point restrictions as I hunt primarily for meat; passing on young bucks in favor of older ones reduces meat tenderness.

Firearms Season Changes: I agree with all the changes that are being considered.

Archery Season Changes: I disagree allowing a crossbow to be a legal method. I agree on limiting hunters to 1 buck tag instead of two. This would help the buck to doe ratio.

Conservation Area Regulations: I agree with simplifying the regulations for conservation areas

I am in favor of all the changes under consideration.

As a nonresident landowner of 160 acres in the southeast part of the state, I would really like to some kind of relief from the expense of regular nonresident permit fees. I am closely approaching 35 years of bowhunting, and almost 40 years deer hunting overall, I am completely in favor of allowing the use of crossbows for the entire archery season. As to the other proposed changes, I am pretty much indifferent to each, as my opportunities to hunt are determined by my work schedule

I think it should be moved so it is not in the rut. Iowa and Illinois have great success growing larger bucks doing this. These bucks aren't so vulnerable out of the rut.

I have reviewed the recommended changes for the 2016-2017 deer season. I do not agree with limiting archery hunters to only one antlered deer. However not my opinion alone can change this, however I would like to offer a suggestion to compromise. I would like to see the Conservation Department give archery hunters the option for a second antlered deer. My recommendation is that if an archery hunter does not use their firearms antlered deer permit, that it can be used to harvest an antlered deer with archery equipment. In this case the hunter will still only be allowed to harvest 2 antlered deer for all seasons combined.

Leave youth season alone. That's when a lot of trappers start trapping. Woods will be crazy. 9 days is fine, 3 days on doe season aint enough. Make it 5 days or something. Split the difference. Crossbows allowed is great. 1 buck is fine for archery season. I never agreed with 2 anyway.

I've read all of the proposed changes, I consider myself a good hunter and conservationist, and I'm on board with the changes, I see good in them for our future

As a supporter of MDC and Missouri's wildlife for close to a decade now, nonresident land owner and tax payer, annual archery and firearm permit buyer, after countless hours and amount of money spent every year on improving Missouri's wildlife wellbeing and habitat on my property, my heart breaks every time MDC fails to recognize important role non-residents like myself play when it comes to wildlife management. People like me contribute more to wildlife conservation than folks who live on 10th floor of St. Louis apartment building or someone who rents place in Kirksville and pays no property tax whatsoever yet their deer permit is \$17. Non-resident deserve break somewhere like in other states. Every year I fight my next door neighbor who is a millionaire and wants to eradicate deer because they eat his corn, according to his words "if can kill them all and not see another deer for the rest of his life it would be perfect" he brings a dozen hunters to his place every year telling them if they don't shoot every deer they see they won't hunt his place next year, we find 6 plus dead deer after every season laying around and YOUR laws and regulations supports people like that versus me just because I'm non-resident and he is not. I'm on your side and people like him aren't, please understand that. People like me are your job security people like my neighbor are not! If you keep ignoring problems like that and we all start acting like that we won't have any deer around for much longer. I'm More than willing to work alongside with MDC but you need to recognize and reward our efforts in some way. At the end firearm season should be moved out of rut. Look what Iowa and Illinois are doing and compare size of deer they grow out there. Thank you.

I have no issues with the proposed changes to the 2016-2017 deer season. As we have noticed a significant drop in the number of deer in the NE portion of Lincoln County I think these changes are necessary. I can't say that I like the reduction in the number of days that I can hunt with a firearm but I would certainly prefer to see more deer on those days that I can be on stand. I have the good fortune of also being a bowhunter so any time I can't use the firearm I will have my crossbow. (Yes I have a medical exemption for that) I feel that MDC allowing crossbows during the archery season has been long overdue. Hope that gets approved.

I very much agree with all the proposed deer season changes.

I agree with all of the proposed changes except for allowing crossbows during archery season. If a person is unable to draw a bow MDC already allows for Dr. notes. Kids can start bow hunting when capable of drawing a bow. No need to overcrowd bow season, overcrowding during rifle season is what pushes a lot of hunters into bow hunting. As a hunter that has hunted multiple states I would also like to see MO go to a limited draw for non-residents like the majority of our neighboring states.

My first and most personally charged comment is not listed above. I feel that the timing of the early youth season should be changed to somewhere earlier in the season or sometime after the November rifle season. Now on to proposed changes: I support a shorter season and would even support less than 9 days if it contributes to an older age class for bucks. I would propose breaking the season up for less pressure during the rut as well (fewer days during rut, open up for

more rifle hunting later in the season if needed). I do not support any additional days of youth hunting for bucks outside of the current 11 day rifle season. I have a child who is just getting started and she goes with me during my season! I have little opinion on the antlerless hunt. I do think there are too many hunters that cannot refrain from harvesting an animal regardless of current conditions so it would probably benefit the herd for the immediate future. I would support eliminating the urban zones portion. Would that also reinstate the antler restrictions in those areas? I would certainly support reinstating antler restrictions. I don't have a strong opinion on this. It appears to me that doctors are more than willing to hand out notes for patients to use them already. If reducing buck tags for archery will help increase age class for bucks I am all for it! I have limited opinion regarding conservation area regulations. Whichever method most helps the MDC to manage our deer will have my support.

I am glad the MDC is looking at changes to the deer season. I believe the MDC does a great job compared to the neighboring states. I am favor on reducing the number of days to 9. A little less pressure. The timing was great this year. I have mixed feelings about moving the youth season to Thanksgiving. I normally doe hunt this time of year. However I had little success. Also I think our youths need more exposure to hunting and the last youth can be brutal with the weather. It's a good idea. 3 days for antlerless seems tough. Maybe 5 days. First Friday in December works for me. Eliminating the urban zone is a great idea. I do not hunt in urban zones however. GREAT IDEA with having crossbows in archery season. Get more people involved and excited to hunt. I would buy one in a heartbeat. At least give everyone over 50 the option to use a crossbow. Not a fan of reducing the number of antlerless deer in archery season. I love deer meat and getting a doe is a real challenge for me. Seeing a legal buck is difficult. Keep the archery for taking antlerless deer.

Why limit archery to one buck? Some of us who are serious about our hunting would like to be able to have a buck to go after later in the season if we kill one early. The diehard archery hunters who are managing are probably the only ones who would even try for a second archery buck and we shouldn't get hit with a regulation that should be tailored for a problem that is created by gun hunters. Very few people kill a second archery buck, although many try. So taking away that tag shouldn't have much effect on the buck harvest. Why do it?

I think all of the proposals sound well thought out and should be implemented. There have been no changes for some time now thinks it makes sense to do some changes.

As someone who just recently started the adventure into hunting and, hopefully, trapping, my initial reaction is frustration. I am just starting out at this time, and am now running into a slight roadblock on the experience. Putting aside my thoughts, and yes, frustration, on the reduction of the length of the antlerless portion of the hunt, the reduction of the antlered deer limit to 1 (instead of 2), and the removal of the urban portion (I live in St. Louis City, and upon obtaining my Heritage Card, looked forward to participating, if possible, a little closer to home). I understand the changes, and the need to do so. I cannot say I LIKE it, but I AGREE with it, as it benefits every hunter in Missouri, the wildlife itself, and the ability to continue doing what so many enjoy. I think this is a good idea, for the deer population and future hunting, for safety in

the urban areas, and regarding the youth portions, to provide better opportunities for the younger individuals to enjoy the sport, challenge, and benefits, of hunting, and Missouri wildlife and the outdoors. I still don't like it, but I agree with it. On the bow hunting, as someone who has just entered into the challenges of learning this skill, I cannot say it will truly affect me, as I am honest enough to know I would be VERY unlikely to take a buck with a bow at this time. In the future? Maybe. I expect the limits will again change in time, which is a benefit to me. Others will be more affected than me, but again, seeing the long term benefit in the changes, I cannot disagree. As someone who has a relative out of state, who would like to enjoy hunting in Missouri, I do think the "out of state" license is a bit pricey, as does he (my brother). BUT. In the best interest of Missouri hunters, I would worry that reducing the price would draw more hunters, who are less likely to respect Missouri's wildlife, natural resources, and lands. I believe at this time, we are in a good place with the prices as they are, and would not change them (more, or less) at this time. The Conservation Area Regulations. I am still trying to be sure I understand the meaning of this statement, so will not comment, other than to ask for a bit of clarification if someone can respond to my email. If not, I agree, in principal, from what I understand, but will attend a meeting for discussion to be sure I have it clear.

The proposed deer season changes look to be exactly what the state needs.

I agree with all proposals. Although there appears to be no change in the antler point restrictions, I support them also. Although my experience is anecdotal, having hunted in Warren County the past few years, I have seen more mature bucks than I saw in twenty five year hunting in Howell, Douglas, and Ozark counties.

I like the proposed plan! My main concern is the (way to low) price we charge out of state hunters! Our state is just as good as Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, etc. and we need to be proud of that! Average all the top deer hunting states and charge out of state people the average! It should be in the \$375-\$450 range! They are coming to my state to hunt my deer and we have been too cheap for way too long! Thanks for listening- J.D.

I do not agree with the changes to the November firearms season with the shortening of regular and antlerless. Also, I don't agree with eliminating urban hunts. I hunt on my own 40 acres and rarely see deer during hunting season, haven't killed one since 2009 and shortening the season will only make it more difficult.

It sounds like you are looking to reduce the length of rifle season to promote a larger deer population, which would be fine. If I didn't know of 8 people that have hit deer in 2014 (myself included). Is the Missouri deer population at a massive decline over the past few years? I don't think adding crossbows to archery season is fair. If you are an avid bow hunter, it's insulting when talking to people who "bow hunt" with crossbows because of "shoulder issues". I know a few people that do this just because they have a doctor's note and prefer using a scope and because of the ease of the hunt (more like hunting with a rifle). I've had my draw arm shoulder dislocated 4 times and still hunt with a 65# bow. Also, changing this regulation, I feel would promote more big buck poaching during the first part of bow season (if people had 2 any deer tags) and would make roadside poaching easier with the ability to have a crossbow set and ready

to fire at longer ranges from a vehicle. I do agree with the elimination of the urban portions. The boundaries for these seem to change frequently and the areas where you can and want to hunt are far enough from cities that it isn't decreasing deer populations close to bigger cities.

Crossbows should be in rifle season, not in archery season. Archers originally got a long season because it was difficult to have success and took constant practice to achieve success. A crossbow can be picked up the day before season and be proficient with.

I am a former resident, current nonresident, and a resident to be by this summer (transferring back home). I have always believed the MDC has done a great job of managing the resource. With that said, I agree on all the proposed regulations, except the reduction to 1 buck on the archery tag. Even as a non-resident, I would fully understand if non-residents were reduced to one antlered tag. Honestly, I would not have cared for it as a non-resident. However, it certainly would send a message to residents that we are trying to protect the antlered bucks from the out of state hunters that have a perception of lowering their standards as though not to end up with tag soup. With regard to the other proposals, again I believe the MDC understands the resource, the population and trends within. Additionally, I am confident there is a pulse on the hunters and keeping the balance between what you do and what we want to see. Last, on the question below with regard to the cost of a nonresident permit. I believe it is too low considering it has two antlered tags to it. If it was reduced to one, I believe the cost is fair.

I agree with all the proposed changes, except allowing crossbows. If you're getting older like me, then back off on the pounds you are pulling.

Agree to all changes except only one buck during archery season. I think you should still allow 2 bucks as before and possibly allow one to be a spike. I have seen some old spikes on my property and cannot remove them. Thanks.

We have read the proposed changes. I support every proposed change. Especially the 3 day youth season. For anyone religiously opposed to hunting on Sunday, this will be a welcome additional day for children to hunt. And the proposed change from 2 archery buck to 1 is also needed. And cutting back the number of days hunted will help the herd to stabilize from the losses of the last several hard years.

I like the proposal to limit the # of archery bucks to one and would be fine with shortening the Nov. firearms portion to 9 days. I do not think allowing crossbows is a good idea. The older hunters can already get a permit to use crossbows if unable to draw a compound bow. Crossbows require less skill and would result in more deer being killed, which is not needed at this time. I would prefer the second youth season to stay in January.

The 2 bucks for archery is perfect what I'd like to see is 2 buck tags and you use those for either bow or gun but for hunters that don't bow hunt still can get 2 or vice versa. Crossbow would be awesome. As far as timing I'd like it to stay the same. But youth season to be moved after gun season or have youth the 2nd weekend of firearms. A lot of people take kids but I really don't see a young kid shooting a 30.06 150 yards at a buck of a lifetime, think about that. Or regulate youths to shotgun only

Policy Coordination, Following are my comments to your proposed changes to the state's deer hunting regulation for the 2016-2017 hunting season. • Maintaining the current timing of the November portion but reducing the length from 11 days to nine days, a. I am in favor of reducing the length from 11 days to the 9 days schedule. • Expanding the late youth firearms weekend from two days to three days and having it begin the Friday after Thanksgiving instead of early January, a. I am in favor of expanding the youth season to three days or maybe four days to allow a more accessible time for the young to have ample hunting time. b. The special hunt area's number of days for youth is great because it allows time to make commitment to a certain day and time to hunt. And usually there is time at these locations to scout the area before the hunt. c. The Friday after Thanksgiving is a great time or the week between Christmas and New Year because of school closures for the holidays. • Reducing the length of the antlerless firearms portion from 12 days to three days and beginning it on the first Friday in December. a. I am in favor of reducing the length to three days beginning the first Friday of December. • Eliminating the urban zones portion. a. I am in favor of eliminating the urban zone hunting portion but also being able to bring back when needed. • For the fall archery deer and turkey season allowing crossbows as a legal method. a. I am in favor of allowing crossbows as a legal method. Being a senior and limited muscle mass it would help me continue my hunting. • Reducing the limit of antlered deer during the archery season from two to one. a. I am in favor of reducing the antlered deer from 2 to 1. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

I really like the idea of moving back the deer firearms season by a week. But I would like to keep the 2 archery buck tags with my Archery License. By keeping the 2 buck tags it would allow us hunters to enjoy the whole season rather than having to quit after shooting the first buck. Thanks!

I am in favor of all proposed regulation changes for the upcoming deer season. The proposal I feel strongest about is to allow crossbows during archery season. I will be 69 this year and this regulation would provide both new hunters and us older folks alike with over 3 more months of opportunity to hunt here in Missouri. I sincerely hope it is approved. Thanks for all that Missouri hunting offers us, J.K.

Crossbows should never be allowed to be used during the archery portion of hunting season, at any point. Nowadays any crossbow can easily shoot 80 yards. Archery hunting is meant to be a challenge, not a long season open for what can pretty much be considered a "gun". I can agree that crossbows can be used for disabled people that can't pull back a bow, but some disabled people can still pull back a lightweight bow. It doesn't take much draw weight to kill a deer. I've seen deer killed with 40 pounds of draw weight from a child's bow easily. Archery season should stick to the current archery equipment required.

Can live with all proposed changes except for crossbows in archery season, I think they have no business in archery season except for disabled hunters!

I am in favor of all the proposed changes.

Need to do away with bonus tags in Ste. Genevieve county any way. I hunted 11 times during the rifle portion and saw 1 doe. I hunted 9 times during the muzzle loading portion and again saw 1 doe. As a hunter who likes deer meat and also like to see deer it really hard to shoot the only deer

you see I do like the 4 pt rule but in my option we need to keep the 4 pt rule and do away with the bonus tags because it will make people think before they shoot the first doe they see then continue to hunt and also shoot the basket racked 8 pt. Which is not what us hunters that really care about the deer herd would do anyway, but in my opinion your just putting the fox in the hen house. I know it will cut down on revenue but if you guys really care about the deer herd then so be it raise our tags if you have to keep the revenue just my 2 cents would really like a response to this.

Reduce firearms hunt to 9 days and keep the same timing. Increase deer herd. Yes on the three day youth hunt starting the Friday of Thanksgiving. Promote hunting for the next generation of hunters. Yes on the three day antlerless only but why late December. What happens to the alternate methods season. More does and buttons for increased deer population. Urban Zone no comment. Use of crossbows should be for disabled hunters or 65 and older only during Archery season. Keep the two buck limit for archery. This will keep late season pressure off the does (more future deer). I think most good archery hunters are fairly selective shooting bucks and late season is difficult hunting weather, but also a good chance to shoot a trophy buck. How many archery hunters are taking two bucks? During archery pre-firearm, if you shoot a button consider it a filled buck tag for late archery. This will help the buck population. Consider limiting archery antlerless tags to one before and one after firearms season?

I like all of the changes you are proposing. I think nonresident deer tags should be the same as nonresidents have to pay that hunt in their state.

1. Whatever the dept of conservation feels is best for the state deer herd depending on the each area or district of the state as local deer numbers may vary drastically from one area to another depending on food/water resources. 2. I am 100% for allowing crossbows for archery season for everyone that way it may allow more hunters to enjoy the woods--I know some traditionalist have different opinions with long bows vs recurves vs compounds but this has been a heated discussion for a long while with some individuals--the bottom line to me is allowing more people to enjoy our resources with whatever option they are more comfortable with and taking solid ethical shots with equipment that they have confidence in for quick humane kills.

I am an avid hunter. I hunt about 5 times a week on my family's 1,000 acre farm. With that being said I think shortening the antlerless season would be a great idea. We have a lot less does around here than what we did 6 years ago. I also think that crossbows should be legal to all hunters. I hunt with a crossbow do to a shoulder injury with a permit. However I would like to get my mother who rifle hunts and my wife who has never hunted into hunting and it would be easier to start them out on a crossbow.

I am not sure how MDC calculates the size of the Missouri deer herd, and I'll assume that your extrapolations are fairly accurate. But, I'm sure there are regional, if not local variations. I own 40 acres of woods and have trail cameras throughout the property. I have counted eight distinctly different antlered bucks, and several button bucks. The largest is a 10 pointer, and the least is a spike buck. I have three does, each given birth to twins. There are another four, maybe six, other does wandering the woods without fawns. In NJ and PA were I have hunted my entire life, they

manage by Zones. The deer management teams understand these local/regional differences and manage the herds in those zones according to harvest reports, road kill numbers and other factors. I believe that your proposed changes to season timing (esp. the rut) and length are too general for a state with the size and ecological diversity of Missouri. Looking forward, I would like to see MDC modify its deer management strategy from a "Whole State" plan, to a more regional/zone based on accurate deer population studies/reporting and reproductive success.

I do not believe that crossbows should be used during the archery season. Shooting a crossbow is much easier and accurate than a compound/traditional bow and will significantly increase the amount of deer and turkey harvested during the archery season due to the extended range and ease of shooting. Crossbows are too similar to rifles, and in my opinion, is not sportsman like if used during the archery season. Allowing crossbows will take a lot of the challenges away from the archery season. Consider shoot a turkey, a crossbow (which is maintained in the drawn position) has longer shooting distance than a shotgun. Please do not allow crossbows in the archery season. Four months of crossbow/firearm season would not be good for deer and turkey conservation. Most people will abandon their bows for crossbows and the herds/flocks will diminish.

I agree with most of the proposed changes for the 2016-2017 seasons. The one thing I would like to see changed would be moving the main firearms season back to the end of November or the beginning of December. This would push the main portion of firearms season out of the rut and allow some of the bigger bucks to breed does and not make them so vulnerable.

Agree with all proposals outlined here except the doe season 3 day limit and the fact it will no longer coincide with buck season. I'm ok with 3 day season but have it coincide with first 3 days of gun season in November, when many hunters only have that first weekend to deer hunt. Crossbow addition is well overdue, especially for senior hunters!

I think that if you are going to reduce the number of antlered deer taken during the archery portion, then there should not be the legalization of the crossbow for all during the archery portion. If you want to help our deer herd out and bring in your out of state hunters, then reduce our antlered deer to 1. No matter how you take the antlered deer you get only one for that year. This will give us deer like Iowa, Illinois and Kansas....The true big buck states.

I received a media email message from MDC.MO.GOV regarding The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) seeking public input on proposed changes to the state's deer hunting regulations for the 2016-2017 hunting season. I fully support ALL of the recommended changes except the elimination of the Urban Zone. The deer population in urban areas has become unmanageable except by hunting. I especially support the use of Crossbows for anyone who so desires during archery season

I am actually good with most of these suggested changes. I would like to see one other though - the restriction of antlerless deer to one-per-season regardless of the manner taken. One with either a bow or rifle or alternative. A bag limit on antlerless deer. I can recall when the population of deer in Osage County was so low, that you had to enter a lottery-style draw to even get a "doe tag". I would hate to see us regress back to that level.

I agree with all the proposed changes. My wife and I hunt together except for during archery and the proposed crossbow issue would make her very happy. We also have introduced one grandchild to the joy of nature and she, at the age of 10, understands the benefits of hunting to provide food for the family. The early season will make just being out in the woods more pleasurable for her. We hunt mostly private land but have noticed an increase in hunting around us and a decrease in the number of deer. The proposed shorter season should still provide plenty of opportunity and better odds of harvesting a deer. As to the increase in out of state permit fees, I have seen higher and would not be opposed to an increase until the deer population recovers some. All good conservation efforts require change from time to time. Thank you, S.R. Sr.

First let me clarify that I am a non-resident that owns a farm in Knox Co. So, of course I am against the increasing of non-resident fees. The argument I would put forward is the fact (in my case) we spent almost 6 months every year in Missouri, but are legally residents of Fla. We contribute quite a bit to the local economy, but also end up putting a lot in sales tax, which is your funding. Being in this group, we will pay a lot more simply because we buy the non-resident lic. and then continue spending as we live and contribute to the state of Missouri. At one time this group of out of state land owners were treated fairly, so this item needs to be revisited. Next item for me, which you seem to have a good handle on, is the use of crossbows during archery. I am 67 and already use one with an exemption. As you seem to understand, this change will help in keeping seniors in the field, and maybe introducing others to bow hunting. All your other changes sound firm and solid. Now, make them!

I believe those are fantastic ideas that could very easily improve Deer Hunting in our state. Crossbow being allowed during regular bow Season is a must! The only thing I don't agree with is lowering Firearms Season to 9 days. I think we're just fine where we're at.

I agree with the proposed change.

I am a transplant from Pa and hunted their most of my life before moving to Missouri. I watched crossbows become legal in that state they definitely changed archery hunting particularly on public lands there was a noticeable decline in quality outings as hunters using crossbows employed tactics that were much higher impact on deer. I would be opposed to this change for archer season in its entirety. I feel like a better proposal would be have a separate crossbow season and sell an appropriate permit I am not oppose to crossbows but they are a different weapon and should not be classified as archery tackle. Secondly I caution over simplifying the regulations on conservation areas. Some of the best hunts I have had are on the areas that limit or eliminate doe harvest with rifles this increase in population results in a quality rut hunt. The Conservation areas with a healthy doe population result in bucks seeking these areas in the rut. Opening them up to statewide doe regulations even with the shorter proposed seasons would result in a much lower quality of hunt.

I think all the changes would be great except for expanding the late youth season. I think there is too much poaching and trespassing that goes on during the youth hunts.

I agree with all proposed changes but would like to see rifle season moved out of the rut.

I am okay with reducing the season length from 11 days to 9 days. I am fine with the youth season changes. I am okay with reducing the length of the antlerless portion. I thought MDC needed the urban zone portion to help control deer in populated areas. If so, I have no idea why you are planning to eliminate this. I am not in favor of allowing everyone to use crossbows. I think we in Ste. Genevieve county have too FEW deer; allowing crossbows will just increase the harvest. I am fine with reducing the limit of antlered deer that may be taken during the fall archery season from two to one. I am okay with simplifying the methods of harvest regulations at the conservation areas. HOWEVER, I think that in many cases the methods allowed are far too restrictive, such as not allowing shotgun turkey hunting in some smaller wildlife areas and nature areas. I cannot see why people cannot hunt with shotguns IF warnings about safety are posted in numerous places.

I have a few comments on the proposed changes to our deer hunting regulations. Allowing crossbows as a legal method during archery season will alter the way future generation bow hunt to the extent that it will be the equivalent of having four month long rifle season. With the ability to not have to move to draw a bow, and the fact that telescopic sights will be used on most crossbows, there is little difference in hunting technique. Considering that in most of the forested portions of our state fifty to sixty yards is an average shot distance for rifle hunters, a crossbow has no limitations in effectiveness at that range. Future generations of hunters will choose to hunt less with traditional and compound bows and drift further and further toward the crossbow due to its increased range and lethality. It will diminish the quality of hunting for regular archers and rifle hunters for several years after its implementation by putting a large number of uneducated hunters in the woods that take the easiest route to a harvest. My greatest fears are that this will push our deer herd so far towards being nocturnal that daytime hunting will have such a low percentage of success that it would be a waste of time, and that it will reduce bag limits for regular archers, and that over time it will force the department shorten archery season. I hunted with a recurve bow this fall for six weeks and only had one shot opportunity. If archery season is altered to account for higher kill numbers due to the use of a crossbow, it will be nearly impossible to take a deer stalking (I do not prefer to hunt from an elevated stand) with a recurve in an abbreviated season. This change is too radical, the crossbow regulations that are in place at this moment are a very good balance of use and regulation. As in regards to shortening the days of rifle season I believe the current length is appropriate. Hunters like me that try to take mature bucks will sometimes need this amount of time to harvest those types of animals. A weather system that moves in for several days as on the opening day of the 2013 season with lots of heat and wind and rain dropped harvest numbers substantially. Less days will not be equitable to rifle hunters in pursuit of a mature buck in case of weather. A better alternative would be to only have one weekend of hunting with the opening day on a Monday, but still allow the full eleven days for dedicated sportsman. The proposal to amend regulations so that archers may only take one antlered deer seems unfair to archers that devote a lot of effort to the sport. A better alternative would be to allow hunters a second archery buck if they donate a deer to the share the harvest program. Hunters that are willing to help the less fortunate deserve an incentive because of the

effort and monetary cost to donate. I am STRONGLY in favor of retaining all the current archery limits and regulations. I am in favor of all of the rest of the changes the department has proposed.

Don't reduce the # of antlered deer for archery but add antler restriction on 2nd antlered deer.
Do not eliminate Urban zone.

I agree with all of the proposed changes. I also would like to see out of state fees stay the same.

I agree with all proposed changes, especially the youth portion and a one buck limit during archery season.

For the November portion it can change from 11 to 9 days because most hunters fill their tags on opening weekend. Late youth season-I like the idea of it starting after thanksgiving day it can change from 2 days 3 days. Don't like the idea of the antlerless portion if you are going to limit the doe tags to one per hunter then you all should do away with the antlerless portion for 2 to 3 years so the deer herd can make a comeback then open up the antlerless season back up if the deer herd is high enough to allow hunters to hunt more than 1 deer through the season. I like the idea to allow crossbows for the archery season because some hunters can't pull back a bow with shoulder problems without going to a doctor to get permission to use a crossbow this will save a lot of time and money for the hunter. You can eliminate the urban zones portion. Like the idea to change the archery limit to one buck instead of two bucks. Now on to the topic of the conservation areas. I like to see it changed to Archery and Firearms on all conservation areas not here or there. Would like to see a change that you can hunt does on all conservation areas not just bucks on some of the areas and does on the others, need to allow bucks and does on all conservation areas. This can really get confusing to some people were this is the only place they have to hunt deer and turkey. Thanks for reading my comments on the 2016-2017 deer season changes .

Do NOT reduce the number of days for gun deer season. The harvesting of does needs to be controlled to grow the population...then do that thru license allocation (1 doe for archery and 1 for gun). Folks that shoot does do so on opening weekend of gun season unless they're just clueless about how to hunt. It's the buck hunters that are out there every day for ALL ELEVEN days...they're trophy hunting (and restricting their time isn't going to affect the population of the herd). Also, the notion of moving and increasing the youth portion conflicts with the notion of reducing the firearms portion to 9 days (i.e. "let's kill fewer deer by going to 9 days but let's kill more deer by letting the kids have 4 days when they're outta school" ... which is the goal: increase herd count or decrease?!). Youth are going to kill does..."first deer"; not so much kill bucks. Expanding their season and the expectation to have more kids out during T'giving will hurt the herd count, won't it? Crossbow: Yes, should be legal. I just really hate to see Missouri have such a short gun season as we currently do...and then to contemplate shortening further, we'll be right back to a doe and total herd problem. I suggest MDC is being too myopic in their view of time. It's like looking at 200 years of weather history and saying we have 'global warming'...what about the preceding 200 billion years?! Same here with Missouri's deer herd...let Mother Nature thin (and grow) the herd when she needs to (along with mild effects of hunting on herd size)...you all don't need to react to a small disease and (2012) weather/drought

problem with a knee-jerk action. The herd size will return on its own and 2 more days of gun hunting won't make any significant difference over a longer period of time. 2014 was already increased sightings from 2013 from everyone I talked to in NWMO. 2015 will be better yet. Another change I'd like to see you make is to allow a 2nd buck-tag for firearms but, that could ONLY be used with black-powder/alternative methods. If a fella shoots a buck with a rifle, the muzzleloader has to stay in the gun-safe all year. A second tag would allow him to buck hunt with a primitive/black-powder, instead of doe hunt.

I prefer the November portion be moved after the prime rut days, but I do agree with reducing the length to 9 days. I agree the late youth season should be moved to a warmer period. 2 days may be enough for the youngsters. I agree with shortening or even eliminating the antlerless portion except where absolutely necessary to control over populating. I agree with elimination of the urban portion. I am adamantly opposed to allowing crossbow use during archery season. It is just wrong to ruin the reason most who choose to bow hunt do so. We do it to escape the crowds and feel safe while having a peaceful day afield. Crossbows will encourage firearms season numbers of hunters coming afield to take long shots at trophy bucks during months of pleasant weather. I am good with one antlered buck per year per hunter all methods combined. I have not experienced difficulty following area regulations.

I heartedly concur with your plan for all changes to the deer management with the exception of two. 1. The Youth early season should be earlier and not on the start of the rut. That messes up the bow hunters that have been tracking bucks all fall waiting for the run to hit. 2. I would reduce the antlerless season to two days in the fall especially in the north. Does are in very low numbers in the 3 counties I hunt in. But for the rest....you have it spot on. Allow crossbows in the archery and turkey season, please. I want to use whatever weapon suit the place I am hunting. Cutting antlered harvest on archery tag has been needed for years. So bravo again. Reducing the gun season back to the 9 days I started with as a teenager makes sense too. Simplifying the regs for the MDC areas is overdue too. Go for it. Oh and for nonresident prices, how about making them reciprocal to whatever the other state charges our residents. For instance, Kansans would pay near 400 for a tag as I have to pay to hunt there. My input for what it's worth.

I think the crossbow idea is fine. I know a lot of people that can't pull back a regular compound bow that has enough draw weight to adequately kill a deer at a reasonable range that would love to bowhunt. My wife is a good example of that. She loves to hunt and loves shooting her bow. But with our low deer numbers this year it was all I could do to harvest a deer with my bow let alone take an inexperienced hunter out and try to get a deer within 20 yards so she can get a clean shot. I think the 4 days of youth season is plenty, especially with the low deer numbers. I don't know a single youth in my area that participated in the January portion. If you want to change something change it to 4 consecutive days before regular firearms season. Changing November portion is a horrible idea! As it sits now I only have 4 days max to hunt on the weekends. That's if I don't go to church, and I do, so that leaves a total of two days. If it's cut back to 9 days I'll get to hunt one day a year. That's if it's not my scheduled weekend to work. This makes it the second year I have not harvested a deer in rifle portion as it is. How in the

world am I going to get one with even fewer days to hunt? Honestly, for me, one day of hunting isn't worth buying the \$20 tag! As far as the out of state tag price is concerned, it's too low! This last fall I went and hunted mule deer and the tag and license cost me \$550! The tags in Nebraska are in the \$450 range the tags in Illinois are \$450 ect. If there state charges \$500 dollars for a deer tag that's what we should charge them! The taking away a bow buck tag is another bad idea! I've personally never killed 2 bucks in one year with my bow but if the chance arises it would be a very nice option to have. Because I'm definitely not going to be out in the woods with a stick and string in December and January at 10 degrees just for the possibility of a doe. If you want to boost deer numbers improve their habitat. Around here the only this we have is timber. If we don't have an acorn crop deer starve. Why not plant some food plots on the logging decks and clean out some of the wildlife ponds that's now drying up or drained. Or loan willing landowners equipment to build food plots, ponds, ect. Another idea is to make some bow only hunting areas in se Missouri. Up north there is a ton of places for bow hunters but none down here.

I agree with all the new changes seem like a good idea. I'd like to be able to hunt muzzleloader season even if I killed one during the modern portion. I only hunt in Pemiscot County so understand. We don't have that big of a deer population. If we could have a drawing for each county of only so many tags. Even make it antlerless only.

I like the proposed changes, I feel they will do nothing but help are deer herd. I have become an avid crossbow hunter over the last couple of years and really like the idea of making crossbows legal during archery season. I would also like to thank all you folks at are conservation offices for the great job you are doing to ensure the future of Mo. deer herd.

I'm ok with the current number of days to our firearm season. I would like to see the firearm season moved out of the rut. I like the idea of the extra day to youth season. I'm not a fan of having an antlerless season or allowing crossbows for people without disabilities. I'm also ok with the current urban and conservation area regulations. I would really like to see our nonresident permits be a drawling only permit.

I like going back to a nine day season. Never used the extra time anyway. The department need to do away with antlerless season all together. End this before we have no deer left to hunt it just that simple. On youth season, it needs to be one weekend the Friday, Saturday and Sunday after thanksgiving that's it. No more. Too many adults use this as a way to kill extra deer. I see too many 11&12 year old girls and boys sitting in pictures with deer they were supposed to have killed. I'm like, ok what did they shoot, child does not know, and dad says oh he or she used my 300 win mag. Bulls—t. Kid didn't shoot these deer. Dad did and uses child's tag to make it legal. Don't get me wrong, I think the youth season is the best thing the department has ever done, but it gets abused bad and right now our whitetail heard can't take the pressure. You can change muzzleloader back to nine days also and no handguns and no crossbows. Its muzzleloader deer season and if it does not load from the muzzle then stay out of the woods and leave these guys to the woods to enjoy muzzleloaders and the woods I personally do not need these a--holes running around with handguns and crossbows during muzzleloader season. It's bulls--t to take a deer with my Hawken with open sights it's hard enough without this a--hole with a 9 mm and a crossbow

walking in on me. I was like, you are kidding me! Nope, this guy was deer hunting with a 9mm self-defense handgun and some crossbow piece of junk he bought at a yard sale. You think this up at MDC, that any center fire bullet that expands is ok to deer hunt with. Dude that I a 380 with a 95 grain hollow point out of a s and w body guard not enough gun to hunt deer with need I go on anyway go back to A nine day season. Stop antlerless season, close it down. One three day weekend after turkey day for the kids, no more no less. Nine day muzzleloader season and that's what I mean muzzle loader season. Go ahead a allow crossbows on a bow tag and you will have poachers dream what part of our deer herd needs help have you people missed the old injured and handicap can already get a special permit to use a cross bow problem solved. Someone please pull somebody head out of there butt and quit giving in to the cries of a few and let's start thinking about our wildlife for our future. We are borrowing it from our grandchildren and they would very much like to have it back in one piece.
Open up season in Miller County. The population is not declining there. Especially Hwy 42 area. It is dangerous to drive that road at dusk on the way home from work. I am tired of having my cars torn up. I hit 2 deer this year.
I personally don't think any of the proposed changes are going to help especially for growing big mature deer. MOVE GUN SEASON TO DECEMBER. November firearms season is when all the trigger happy people are hunting and the bucks are too vulnerable at that time. Do exactly what Iowa DNR does and we will have bigger, mature deer.
Like most of the changes except. Crossbows should not be allowed during archery season. Only being able to hunt public land I would like limits for archery to be 2 any deer only.
In response to your proposed changes to the deer season, I do not agree with shortening the season nor do I agree with the shortening of the antlerless season. I would also like to see the 4 pt. rule removed. Trophy hunters should be given a trophy area like trout and charged more for the privilege.
They look good
You read my mind! I totally agree with every proposed change except for the crossbow issue, but don't think it will have a huge impact. Go for it!
I generally agree with the new proposals as long as nonresident fees are in line with other states. I do, however, STRONGLY DISAGREE with allowing crossbows in the archery season. The crossbow is precocked, shoulder fired with many having telescopic sights and with draw weights of about 180 pounds. Compare that to a longbow, recurve or compound with a draw weights generally in the 45 – 70 pound range that are hand held/released. I do not buy the argument that this is necessary to entice young hunters into the field. I strongly believe this is an effort by MDC to increase hunter participation strictly for an increase in tag sales. Respectfully, B.L.
I agree with all of the proposed changes for the reasons stated.
I think it would lead to better hunting in the future.

<p>Crossbow only to handicapped during archery season. Only crossbow use during rifles season. 2 bucks for archery as always. Do not change archery. No youth firearm season during archery season.</p>
<p>I think your proposals are right on the button. I would limit the crossbow season until after all of the firearms seasons. A crossbow in my opinion is simply another firearm with limited range and should not be legal prior to the normal firearms seasons.</p>
<p>Thank you for entertaining changes. I am a manager of the herd and a trophy hunter and realize not every hunter is the same as I but here is my suggestions. Firearms: Move season to Oct or Dec. I Agree with the shorten season but it needs moved. The youth are our future so I agree with move. Make out of state tags higher priced or a draw! Agree with the doe season change. Archery: Crossbows for YOUTH AND DISABLED ONLY! I think the state should allow 2 antlered tags per year. One Archery and one weapon of choice to be used when desired season is open. I personally don't gun hunt so I could fill my bow tag opening day and for the most part be done for the year. Thank you.</p>
<p>I am a landowner/farmer who has raised a family that has moved out of state. In order for my family to hunt their farm they have to pay out of state fees. I also have sisters and brothers who live out of state and their children all have to pay out of state fees. These are quite prohibitive now when my sister has to pay for 3 out of state tags for my nephews to hunt our property. Raising these rate even further price deer hunting out of reach for my kids and nephews. Some consideration should be made for relatives hunting on the family farm.</p>
<p>I like the proposal to allow crossbows for deer and turkey during archery season. This will allow some people who do not qualify for an exemption but who otherwise can't shoot a vertical bow to participate. I'm not sure about the proposal on the Conservation areas. If more areas are restricted for firearms use, it will add to the already overcrowded conditions on most public lands during firearms deer season. I would be against that. The season changes seem fine to me. The November portion could be reduced to 8 days even. Maybe add the extra day to antlerless portion and make it 4 days instead of 3.</p>
<p>Let's just start here - how did I hear about the proposed changed? You emailed them to me. Which is not a choice listed above...Good work! There should be no change to the antlered bow limit. That is ridiculous. There has NEVER in the time I've been a Mo. resident been an increase to the bow season. There is only take away days. Days we have to wear orange to accommodate every silly gun season you nitwits can think of. I'm tired of it. NOT only will I move from this state if you reduce the archery harvest, I will NEVER return to hunt whitetails here. I'll move and hunt deer in a more archery friend non-discriminatory state. Archery is where the money is. That is where the income is. That is where the resources, that provide food plots, QDM, etc is. Rifle hunters only take and never, or near never, put back. They are an incompetent bunch needing blaze orange for everyone in the woods like a beacon which says "don't shoot this" on everything because they are so terrible at determining what is a target and what isn't. You guys want to make things right? Move rifle to thanksgiving weekend, muzz to Jan, and extend the bow season</p>

till Jan 31st. Otherwise Mo. will remain a C+ state for big bucks behind the almighty Iowa who can command twice the price Mo. can for its tags.

For me, I really only bow hunt. I have gone rifle hunting a couple of times but putting as much work as my friends and I scouting and working different stands I find that to be more challenging. By reducing the antlered tag to one for us will reduce the urge. Speaking for my friends and myself personally we don't shoot anything that won't fit the Pope and Young range or bigger. As for letting crossbows in the mix. I have talked to others who have this in place in there state and was told the injured deer numbers have gone up. People treat them like rifles and will sight them in then go try to make a 80 yard shot. It's hard enough to get deer close after rifle season let alone having one shot at it and a bunch more people taking pop shots with a crossbow. Those are my thoughts on the matter. Thank you for your time. R.C.

I heard about this from today's email distribution. I am somewhat against reducing the November portion from 11 days to 9 days because some years that last Monday and Tuesday are the only days I can make it out to hunt all day. But this for purely selfish reasons so if studies indicate this is what is best for the deer population then that's what needs to happen. Even though it is not one of the options listed I would like to see the 1st youth season moved to early or mid-October to get it out of the prime pre-rut/early rut period. I am concerned that too many larger bucks are being harvested by having a firearms season in late October or early November, during the time of the year when the bucks seem to be the most active during the daylight hours. I believe that most youth consider any deer a trophy, or should if they are being mentored correctly, so increasing the likelihood of a youth taking a doe or smaller buck before the rut increases the daylight activity of the larger bucks should be a good thing for the population, while still allowing the youth a good probability of a successful harvest, just with perhaps a reduced likelihood of that harvest being a large breeding-class buck. Let the bigger bucks have an opportunity to chase and breed as many does as possible before the normal firearms season begins. To this point I would also be in favor of moving the normal firearms season out a week, although I'm sure that isn't feasible due to the Thanksgiving holidays. I would imagine that having the firearms season overlap with Thanksgiving would create a lot of negative reaction from the families of hunters (although many hunters might like it due to the additional days off from work they might have during the holiday weekend!) And I would like to see the Lamine Wildlife Area regulations amended to allow youth hunters to be able to harvest a doe. The same for any other wildlife areas that will support this approach. If the doe harvest on Lamine is a concern then open the opportunity for the youth and eliminate the special antlerless hunt. I am fine with the other proposed changes.

GUN 1) Maintain Nov. time & reduce days to 9. 2) Expand the early AND late youth seasons to 3 days same time slots. 3) Don't eliminate the urban zones. Some places need managed more than anywhere else! ARCHERY 1) DO NOT ALLOW CROSSBOWS! Unless you have dr. order. Like now! Opens up safety issues, killing too many deer issues, argument issues, ethics issues, fairness issues, entering bucks in clubs issues, etc! ITS JUST NOT RIGHT! They are not even close to being the same as a drawn and held bow! Distance they shoot to not having to

move to shoot. People will be shooting people, dogs, cows, and too many deer. Many of which will not be found because of wild shots. They are not, in general, as dedicated to practice as regular bows. Plus, do they have groups supporting the sport like us bowhunters have for YEARS! NO! Keep crossbows out of archery season! General- limit the # of bucks killed to 2 total. Hunters can kill 1 with a bow and 1 with a gun, 2 with a bow or 1 with a gun. Limit the # of does based on the area if you can. Thanks

Shorten the firearms season and move it back more into December after the rut. Lengthen youth season. Reduce number of days in antler-less. Do NOT get rid of urban zone hunting season. Do NOT allow crossbows (only for people with a doctor's note). -M

I'm FOR all the proposed changes. I also learned of the proposed changes via your emails; a very valuable tool.

Please do not reduce the time we have to hunt during the regular firearms seasons. For many as myself who are forced to spend a majority of their time working (wishing they were hunting) it is hard to find enough time to hunt during the 2 week season as it stands. By reducing the number of days to hunt during the regular firearms season will hurt the everyday working hunter who can't afford to take off work just to accommodate a shortened season. Not everyone who hunts works Monday through Friday 9-5, so keeping the hunting on weekends won't help this shortened season. If the regular season is decreased in the number of days I ask that those days be added to the alternative season instead. For people that do not bow hunt this is the only other opportunity to harvest a deer outside of the regular firearms season not using a bow. I do not agree with extending the youth portions and any other portions. If the department is wanting to reduce the harvest numbers limit the number of deer a person may take in any given season (especially the number of land owner tags). Landowners are allowed too many tags in my opinion. Even more so, if I have to stand behind one of them at the store buying their tags. Not only do they get a discount but they receive more tags than necessary. Overall, I think reducing the number of days hunting will not solve any problems when there are other solutions that have the ability to correct a reduction in harvest numbers. If the regular firearms season is too long, than extend the alternative. Do not extend the youth seasons. I think the out of state tags are at the right price. Missouri does not have enough public hunting ground to offer to charge the prices of other states.

I think the seasons should stay the same length. But the youth season could be moved up in date.

I agree with maintaining the timing of the November portion and going back to 9 days. Keep the youth season at 2 days or eliminate it. Agree with the 3 day antlerless portion starting the first Friday in December. Agree to eliminate the urban portion. Ok with cross bows during the archery season. Keep the limit of 2 antlered deer during archery season. Agree with the limiting of methods and number of permits used on CA land.

I have no problem and support the proposed changes with one exception. I feel a crossbow does not belongs in archery season. It shoots a bolt however with the stock I feel it is more akin to a firearm, abet with a shortened range. I completely understand the desire to draw more young people into the sport. I just do not agree with this proposed change and feel it is the wrong

approach. I bowhunted for years but haven't for the last several due to life's demands (kids, job, etc.). Hopefully that will change soon. Not having time to practice I feel it a disservice to the animal to be less than my best while in the field. That said I still do not feel comfortable with this change. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Crossbow should not be allowed during archery season.

Agree with all changes except crossbow as legal method during bow season and extended youth season. May as well allow a gun during bow season if crossbow is allowed and youth season is used by too many adults as an extension of their season.

In favor of all changes except for the limit on archery doe tags. Where we are we still have to many does. Ran 4 cameras on one farm of 350 ac and every camera had at least 15 does on them at one time. The crossbow is great! I have a bad shoulder and have the crossbow permit and after using it I am sold on it. A lot of elderly and young hunters could also enjoy the woods again. You still have to practice and have to know your yardage. Other states around us allow them. I now can enjoy bow hunting again and think more cold also.

I have been hunting for over 11 years, and greatly enjoy the hunt (AND want my children to be able to as well). Here is my advice on the changes. FIREARMS: #1 I do not want to shorten the November portion. #2 I would like the changes to the late youth portion. #3 I do not want to shorten the antlerless portion (because my family NEEDS the meat) And I must work, so I need all the time I can get. #4 I Have no opinion on the urban portion. BOWHUNTING: #1 I do think it would be good for some men to be able to use a crossbow. It is still plenty hard. For some ☺ #2 I do not think it is wise to change it to only one buck. IT WILL DECREASE BOWHUNTERS MAJORLY! I hope this majority vote. Sincerely, M.

I received an email from MDC with the proposed changes. Yes, to a shorter firearms season. Yes, to change for youth season - but make youth tags only up to and including age 15. Yes, to crossbows. Yes, to shorter antlerless only. Yes, (bigtime) to only one archery buck! I would also like to see the 4-point restriction applied to Jasper County in sw Mo. Not sure why we don't have it, but it seems like it would make the bigger buck harvest (a goal of nearly every hunter I know) much better. Thanks for keeping up the good work. D.

I agree with the changes because of the waning deer population.

I agree with them all 100%. Doe portion was too long and rifle portion was too long.

Firearm Season: 1. Reduced to 7 days. 2. Antlerless portion reduced to 2 days. Archery season to be open during the entire firearm season. Increase cost of non-resident permit to \$250, that increase go directly to enforcement, wages and equipment.

As a rifle, muzzleloader and bow deer hunter I support crossbow use during bow seasons. As a non-resident who owns a 90 acre farm and pays property taxes in Mo, I believe the non-resident deer permit price is excessive. I would like to see Mo land owners - regardless of state of residency - be given a break on deer permit costs. Why can't they be treated the same as a resident land owner? Or, at least be given a considerable discount when compared to non-residents who do not own land and pay Mo taxes.

I agree with keeping the firearms deer season timing as is, however, I feel shortening it by 2 days is the right decision. Moving the late Youth season to Thanksgiving weekend is a great idea! Adult bucks that have already shed their antlers may be spared by moving the season. I agree with reducing or even eliminating all together the Antlerless season. Eliminate the Urban Zone season. By all means I agree with making crossbows legal for the entire Archery season. I also agree with limiting the buck harvest to 1 antlered buck during Archery season. I hunt in Chariton County in the CWD zone. I have hunted there for 2 seasons. I, my son and a friend hunt on 120 acres. One deer has been harvested in those 2 seasons between the 3 of us. After talking to neighboring landowners this season, there is a huge assumption that the local Amish community is harvesting (poaching) deer year round. I realize the EHD outbreaks of 2011 and 2012 did the deer no favor, but 1 deer by 3 hunters in 2 seasons is ridiculous. I have been deer hunting in Missouri since 1977 and have harvested many deer over the years. I have seen the highs and lows in populations, but right now, this is the worst. It's harder to harvest a deer now than it was in 1977. I also realize it is hard for the agents to keep up and I feel they are doing the best job they can. We actually met an Agent in 2013 as he stopped by our camp. I thank you for the opportunity to live and hunt in the best state in the country. I also thank you for the opportunity to be able to voice my opinion. I know the decisions made will be for the benefit of the deer and the hunters. I have not hunted Conservation Areas for many years. Simplifying the area regs currently has no bearing on my hunting, but, may in the future as finding private land to hunt is getting harder each year. B.M., St. Charles, Mo.

Nonresident permits should be raised and go into a lottery system like Iowa. Iowa and Illinois nonresident tags are 500 bucks why aren't ours? keep 2 bucks for archery one for opening season and one for late season. Only allow 3 does for bow for whole season.

I commented once already from my farm. I want to add that if indeed the Dept. sees it appropriate to limit archers to one buck, PLEASE still allow landowners and immediate household to still take two. We invest a lot of money, time, sweat and tears into managing our land and soil for a four month hunt and the MAIN reason is the long archery season with ability to get a triple crown. We do not take immature bucks. At least, again, allow landowners still keep the two buck archery program.

Leave the Youth portion the way it is. No crossbows during archery season. Limit antlerless only tags to only one.

I'm OK with most of the changes, but I'm not in favor of the general use of crossbows. In Illinois, anyone over 62 can use a crossbow. I think that, in addition to medical considerations, would allow enough crossbow usage. I think Missouri should charge nonresidents the same amount that their states charge nonresidents. Illinois and Iowa nonresident fees are multiple times Missouri's nonresident fees.

I'm planning on attending one of your meeting, but in case I can't, I want to give my comments. I agree with all the changes purposes. The one thing I would add to it is to add the antler point restriction on one side of 4 points or more state wide. I believe this would help us get more mature deer statewide.

I have read your proposed changes in managing the deer herd in Missouri. Archers SHOULD be allowed 2 bucks, one before and one after the main Nov. portion of firearms deer season. I agree that reducing the Nov. portion of firearms deer season is a very good idea and I also agree that making the youth season 3 day instead of 2 and having the late portion after Thanksgiving is a step in the right direction, even though my children are too old to participate in the youth hunt, I would like to the age for a youth hunter be under 18 years of age because not every youth can drive and go hunting at 16 and various other reasons that I think support this. I also support shortening the antlerless portion. I DO NOT agree with crossbows be used statewide and I have a medical exemption to hunt with one and I hate but it is what I have to do and I here gun hunters all the that say you getting to hunt with a crossbow is like hunting with a rifle and if they would let me use one I would be out there too. You cannot hunt deer with a crossbow with a gun hunters mentality! It will only result in more deer and turkey being wounded or not recovered because tracking a deer or turkey shot with a crossbow is totally different than when shot with a rifle and I don't believe these people have the skills to needed to hunt with a crossbow. I think every so many years the conservation department should have archers qualify with their hunting setup, that would help ensure they can hit there mark when the time comes no it wouldn't be perfect be it would be a step in the right direction. I think changes to MDC and partner owned lands be done on needs basis and not by way of micromanaging areas and there also needs to be data to back those changes up then that data needs to be passed on to hunter through the MDC website. I also would like to see the antler point restriction done away with all together. I am not a trophy hunter so why cater to people that want the restrictions over people that don't? To me, they serve no real purpose other than make deer hunting more attractive to out of state hunters. Also there anyway there could be a meeting closer to the boot heel because Cape is an hour and half or so away? Thanks.

My farm/hunting area is in Randolph County, so how will these proposed changes be impact by CWD? I believe the cutting the doe season to 3 days is unrealistic if you are trying practice QDMA on your property. I like the idea of adding crossbows to the archery season and moving the youth hunt to November.

Treat the non-residents the same way they treat us. Don't cut out our 11 day rifle hunt, cut the antlerless. We live in southern Mo. and we don't get to antlerless hunt, that is not fair to us landowners. Most youth hunts the dads kill the deer anyway so the more days you give them the more deer the dads get to kill. Please let us keep the two bucks in bow season. Draw for the buck tags in rifle season and let the landowners have theirs.

First, I want to extend my thanks for all the hard and great work you all do. The state of Missouri has the best conservation programs in the country. I consider myself to be an avid deer hunter, hunting during archery, November portion, and alternative methods portions. I greatly treasure the wellbeing of our states deer herd. For firearms portion, I think 11 days is just right. I mean what are two more days. Most people are working anyway. I like the idea of extending the youth season to 3 days beginning the first Friday after Thanksgiving. The youth are our future hunters of Missouri, and allowing one more day heightens the experience. Also gives them another day

in case the weather isn't working in their favor. I also agree on reducing the length of the antlerless portion to 3 days, and begin on the first Friday in December. I know you must kill does to conduct proper deer management, but deer season lasts forever it seems. I don't have a problem with eliminating the urban portion, but I also feel it may cause problems in urban areas in the future. More deer being hit on roads in these areas, and the deer eating more flower and vegetable gardens. For archery season, I like the idea of allowing crossbows. I realize someone who has a shoulder injury and can't pull back a compound bow can get a written excuse from his or her doctor, and the process isn't difficult. But, just being able to use a crossbow would be even easier. Why not many other states allow it. I know it's more about the safety aspect of it, but I don't see any difference whether a deer or turkey is killed with a compound bow or crossbow. I mean the end result is the same. I don't consider myself to be a trophy hunter, so I like the idea of killing only one antlered deer during archery season. As far as conservation area regulations, I don't know what you mean here. I mean, I thought the areas already limit methods and use of firearms and archery antlerless permits. Mostly, I hunt private property only because I don't like bumping into someone or have someone walk in on me. It's just the idea of spooking the deer. I mean I don't want to ruin someone's hunt or vice versa. I realize it's open to the public and these things tend to happen. I do hunt conservation areas during archery and alternative methods. Generally, I choose the area by the fact that only archery or muzzleloaders can be used. Sometimes though it backfires on me, because I want to hunt an area but there is only certain methods you can use or you must use certain permits like antlerless only. That's great but what if the only deer I see is the buck of a lifetime. I can see limiting methods, because I feel this is already being done, but not allowing you to use certain permits.

No crossbows in archery (Except as now for handicapped). The others are OK, let the biologists adjust seasons to manage population.

1 buck for archery and crossbow is fine with me.

All the changes are fine with me, but I would like to see the 4-point rule in Washington County and do away with the early youth hunt (legal poaching season) or at least change the age limit.

I agree with all proposed changes except for the following: I don't agree with allowing crossbows as an approved method. Keep the late youth season in January. Thanks! C.

Regulation changes sounds reasonable. I would like to see a lower out of state tag for former Mo resident hunters. I know many families who have family members who have had to move out of state but now can't afford to come back to hunt with their families. For those that have never lived in Mo. should pay a higher amount. I would also like to see buck limitations on youth hunt, a 6 or 7 year old child doesn't really appreciate shooting a large mature buck. Doesn't seem right to me to see little ones like that shoot a large buck and know individuals who have hunted for many years and not had that opportunity.

I am strongly supportive of MDC's efforts to increase the current deer population while simultaneously increasing the quality and age of bucks throughout the state. The antler restrictions have been extremely successful in my experience. I support the following:

1. Maintain the current timing of the main firearms season. But reduce to 9 days. 2. Expand the youth season to three days and move it to the weekend and Friday following Thanksgiving.

3. I would be fine with eliminating the fatherless portion, while we increase the population. Reducing the season and moving the dates to late in the year are also good. 4. I have no opinion on eliminating the urban portion. 5. I believe archery season should be reserved for traditional and compound bows. I would support the use of crossbows for those who have a disability that prohibit them from using a regular bow. I would also support crossbow use for anyone over a selective age, maybe 60 or under a selective age, maybe 18. This would target extending hunting for elderly and providing more opportunity for youth, and those with disabilities. The rest of us who can pull a bow should stick with current methods. 6. I support limiting antlered deer to one during the archery portion to allow bucks to age. Thanks to each of you at MDC for your efforts.

I agree with all proposed firearms changes. I disagree slightly with the inclusion of Crossbows in bow season. I disagree with the elimination of a second buck in bow season. Bow provides a lot of opportunity to be outdoors for those that don't shoot does.

Most of the plan I agree with. But would rather see firearms season pushed back a week along with the reduced length. Next I would like to see 3 day Antlerless the last weekend in December. 3 day late season youth hunt should be the second to last weekend of December because most kids will be on winter break and they'll hit the second rut. I'm fine with crossbows for archery season because it's still a challenge to get close enough to deer to use it. And do away with urban zones. Finally, raise out of state tags and make it a lottery system like our neighboring states. Too many out of state hunters hunt here do to ease of access.

Looks good, I especially like the crossbow inclusion and 1 buck limit during archery season.

The changes that have been proposed is nuts and most of it will not help anything. Absolutely do not allow crossbows during archery season, it will be the biggest mistake we ever make. I'm sure you guys will regardless of what I say because there is too much money involved. If you want every hunter out driving around with a crossbow hanging out the window shooting at deer 80 yards away and making unfatal shots then go ahead. If the numbers are so low then why would we ever even consider that ideal? I'm all for getting more people in the outdoors but this is not the way to do it. My proposal would be get the firearm season completely out of the rut. We are not allowed to hunt turkey all day in the spring because we don't want to disturb the hens nesting but we can send an orange army out to blow the crap out of every deer while they are trying to breed, deer are stupid when its rut and our season allows a big percent of our bucks to be shot in one week out of the year. The rest of my proposal: two doe and two buck during archery season (most won't fill their tags, no worries) during rifle season 1 doe and 1 buck. No antlerless season (there really is no need) why do we pressure the heck out of deer with guns, it is absolutely nuts, I love gun hunting but seriously is the a need to have extensions to the season, do we really need an antlerless season and an alternative methods season, if you really want to shoot one with a crossgun, muzzleloader, pistol etc why not do it during regular firearms season, after all, they are firearms. And last but not least, if you're still reading this, LIMIT OUT OF STATE HUNTERS, INCREASE THE TAG PRICE AND DO A DRAW TO LIMIT HOW MANY CAN COME

HUNT! The day before opening day it was like I was living in a big city. There was so much traffic, lots were out of staters. Increase their tags and do a draw for their tags please, we can save a lot of deer by doing this. Just so you know I am an avid outdoorsman and love the state of Missouri but sometimes I have to just shake my head at some of the decisions of the conservation department.

I agree with the changes proposed with the exception of the timing of the rifle season. I want the rifle season to occur outside of the peak rut. I think the quality of the deer herd will benefit.

Conservation needs to get rid of the bonus tags in Perry County at gun season. There are no deer. I have food plot & fields all around me. 5 guys hunt 140 acres none of us saw a deer this yr. 10 days out hunting and none of us see a deer.

When I see these changes, watch your video, and read your proposal I can easily see that your goal is to increase deer numbers by reducing the opportunity to take deer. These regulations appear to be biologically based and are of sound wildlife management until I come to one, legalizing crossbows. If crossbows were acceptable, why haven't they been legal for the past 60 years. They are an unfair advantage. Don't throw out this stuff that they will help recruit and hold more bowhunters. Bowhunter numbers have grown tremendously over the 25 years I have been bowhunting and we never needed a crossbow to bring in new hunters. Your video states that between 2000 and 2013 bowhunter numbers as well as harvest numbers have increased, that was without crossbows! Your report states that hunters 40 and over drop out due to physical inabilities. That is complete bunk! Bowhunting requires a tremendous amount of time and involvement. At 40 a lot of hunters are approaching that point in life where kids are growing up, work is getting more involved and in order to keep up with everyday life they just can't devote that much time to hunting any more, a crossbow won't change that. Crossbows will increase the number of deer taken during archery season. It is a gun without a bang and it is an extreme advantage. Put a crossbow in an experienced bowhunters hands and it's not a question of if he'll take a deer, it's when. I can't help but believe this is financially driven. It's a trend that is going on all across the country and it's not about sound wildlife management but profits by a few. MDC will sell more permits, and I could almost swallow that, but there is no doubt in my mind there is more than just that, it is the bow manufactures and the BASS PROs, the Cabela's, the academy's and every other outdoor supply store that is pushing this through. It's a shameful path that all government agencies seem to be going down more and more, I had hoped that MDC would not follow suit. You say that these changes, if BIOLOGICALLY ACCEPTABLE, will be proposed to the commission, I'm sorry but when it comes to crossbows, nothing you have stated is biologically based and this will be one of MDC biggest failures if it is accepted.

Non Resident permit prices should mirror what their state of residence charges Missouri hunters to hunt in their state. This would perhaps encourage these high dollar states to adjust their prices so the out of state working stiff can afford to hunt there. Matching fee is only fair.

I am the spouse of a hunter and landowner in Washington Co. I agree with all except the youth hunt. Keep it at 2 days AND not the Friday after Thanksgiving.

I will be 59 years old next month and cannot draw a longbow or low poundage compound bow. I WOULD like to see anyone who would like to archery hunt with a crossbow, have the opportunity to do so. I think that this would open the field to more women, youth and elderly to EASILY enjoy the archery season.

Maintaining the firearms season and reducing to nine days I think is a good idea. It seems in the last couple years most deer were killed the second weekend and it would surely help to increase population. Moving late season portion to November would

We have to many seasons back to back. I believe a recovery time is required for animals to regain their composure. Too much pressure on the animals. Human pressure makes these animals adapt to new areas and times of movement. We need to quit trying to adapt for every single weapon and time for people to hunt. It's becoming like the obesity/convenient store/self-entitlement situation. We are enabling laziness which in return is just pounding down on our deer and environment. We need to keep strict deadlines of times to archery hunt deer and gun hunt deer then allow some breathing room for animals to come out without another season open right back up. Please keep the crossbows out of the archery season, we already have a wide diverse method of archery (traditional to 85% let off 355fps compounds) we do not need to blend a crossbow in that takes away from the true archery method. We already allowed the alternative method season which allows crossbows, which is another season pounded down back to back season. Make it more of a challenge for out of state hunters. I hunt near several public land locations and have spoken to these out of state hunters and the comments from them are: Easy to get tag and cheap! I would like to see less guns seasons back to back, this allows the environment to recover.

Maintain the current timing of the firearm season and 9 day season. ELIMINATE THE LATE YOUTH SEASON. Keep the current 2 buck limit on archery.

I would like to see the use of crossbows legalized for all hunters during archery season.

I think the Archery Season should be left as it is, bag limits etc. DO NOT allow crossbows for the Archery Season unless the person requesting has been thoroughly investigated as to their claim for the need. Shortening the season as far as I can tell for antlerless and regular rifle season would not be a bad thing. The season used to always be 9 days and I see no ill effects for that change.

I agree with the proposed shortening of the Nov portion of the firearms portion. I agree with the change in the lengthening of the late youth season and moving it to the Friday after thanksgiving. I disagree with reduction of the antlerless season to just three days. I have limited time to hunt with a firearm and rely on the harvest of a deer each year for my family. I believe that a compressed antlerless season may result in a reduced harvest, but will likely increase the hunter pressure that could lead to hunter frustration.

I agree with the elimination of the urban zones antlerless season. I agree with including crossbows as a legal method for the archery season. I agree with reducing the number of antlered deer to one during the archery season. However, I don't agree with only receiving a single any deer archery tag. One any deer tag and one antlerless tag would be suitable. I agree with

simplification of the area regulations. I would like to find out the rationale for muzzleloader only. Today's muzzleloaders are no longer considered to be primitive weapons and are extremely accurate out to 200 yards or more unlike shotguns slugs. I am assuming just that these are preferred due to the single shot aspect of muzzleloader hunting and not based upon safety of the distance that the bullet will travel.

I agree with most proposed regulations except for the Crossbow. I do believe if our great state of Missouri wants to participate in the growing trend of Crossbows then perhaps we should allow the Crossbows legal during the second part of our archery season, after Rifle Season! Also, if only limited to one buck during the Archery Season, then perhaps remove the Antler Point Restriction during the first part of Archery Season. While it's nice to harvest a mature buck, most people are weekend warriors that may have a few days to hunt and are really just in it for the Hunt! Let's let everyone enjoy God's creation! Thank You.

I support all changes EXCEPT for the use of crossbows. If people want to use them use them during firearm season. Not fair chase for archery season. Please limit one buck per person a year by whatever means they choose. Let us grow bigger healthier buck deer. Not all of us have time to hunt archery or care to hunt archery. I am a land owner and it frustrates me a person leasing ground next to me can harvest all the nice buck before I get a chance to hunt. I create habitat and food sources and they reap the benefits.

I think the decision regarding reducing the antlerless season should be driven by improving the buck/doe ratio to optimal levels. If you have areas where there are 20 does for every one buck, you're not doing the heard any favors by keeping ratios out of whack. Shoot, any moron buck can breed with those ratios. Keep the strong deer breeding. In regard to the out of state permits, I'm a near lifelong resident of Mo., but live in Kansas now. I own 250 acres in Mo., The business I own pays LOTS of taxes in Mo. and I have a home in Mo. (but it's not my primary residence). Shouldn't people like me be treated like an in-state hunter? Thanks! You do great work.

I read about this on my MDC e-mail. We both hunt, me and my wife, and we both like the idea of going from 11 days in the firearms portion to the 9 days. Expanding the youth firearms from 2 days to 3 days sounds like a real winner. Reducing the length of the antlerless portion from 12 to 3 days and eliminating the urban zones we're all for. Reducing the limit of antlered deer the archery season from 2 to 1 we really like too. We believe crossbows should only be used during an archery season, just as we don't approve of people using bows during rifle season because if you're carrying a gun into the woods and you have a bow hunter up in a tree he can easily shoot at you and you never see him because you're not looking up in the trees this is why we don't care to hunt on crop land and why we bought our own land in St. Clair County not too far from Osceola boy scout camp not the dangers on your own property.

I see no particular problems with reducing firearms deer season from 11 to 9 days, as long as that 9 days stretches the course of two weekends. The last two days of rifle season as it is (Monday and Tuesday) don't particularly seem like large harvest days - I would be interested in seeing what percentage of the total harvest comes in the last two days and whether it would even be worth removing the final two days. With that said, however, I would be a major proponent of

moving the firearms portion of rifle season out of the current date range and out of the heart of the rut. Moving the dates of firearms deer season (later preferably) would allow for an extended season (more opportunities) while not putting an inordinate amount of pressure on the mature bucks. I don't like the reduction of antlerless season from 12 all the way to 3 days. I can see cutting it in half, possibly (or continuing to limit tags) down to 6 days, but a 75% reduction seems like too much right out of the gate. I also don't like moving it to December and putting youth season in its place. Youth hunters are still able to hunt during the antlerless portion of firearms season so they are still able to take advantage of that. The bucks need a break after pursuing through the rut with firearms. As it relates to the elimination of urban zones, I have no opinion except that if (as you state) that it's not all that important of a part of the landscape then is it really worth removing it if it's going to adversely affect some deer hunters (unless it's causing a problem)? I am firmly against the use of crossbows as a legal method for the archery portion of deer season. I see this going a very negative direction for the states die hard bow hunters based on the next question (reducing the number of buck tags to bow hunters). Those who are unable to use a non-fixed bow are able to get a permit today, so in my personal opinion there's no need to allow those who are physically able to use a fixed string bow. You will certainly get more "archery" hunters in the woods should crossbows be allowed, but at what cost? More bucks will be killed. Hunters may be prone to taking less high quality shots. Ultimately I'm assuming available buck and doe tags will be reduced and I can then see the reduction of our archery hunting season - all at the expense of "traditional" archers. Please do not allow crossbows as a legal method during the archery portion of deer season. I don't see the real upside; at least as you all have it justified. If it's for the young and old, then make the regulation applicable to the young and elderly. Learning how to archery hunt without the use of a crossbow (which I as well as all other archery hunters did) is not difficult and teaches patience, proper shot selection and advanced woodsman ship. I would have to see the statistics you all reference on the increase in buck harvest by archers to have a good feeling regarding the reduction of antlered deer tags for archers. As it stands right now, I am not in support or reducing the limit from 2 to 1 archery antlered deer tags; granted, that's a relatively uninformed decision/gut feeling. This is coming from someone who's an avid archer and who's never (to my recollection) harvested two antlered bucks during archery season.

Firearms and Antlerless Season Length Change - appropriate and reasonable. -Youth Season Change- Great idea and should boost participation. - Urban Zones Elimination- should not happen. The season should be expanded to all weekends in October. The communities in the Urban Zones with deer over-population should encourage hunters to help, not hinder the effort. - Archery Method Change- Crossbows would be very welcome! - Archery Antlered Change- I support it. - Conservation Area Regulations- The current method is confusing, a change is most appreciated.

If you own land and receive permits for said land that you own that don't cost you anything to get you should not be allowed to by an over counter tag to hunt on land that you don't own until the landowner permits that you received have been filled for your property that you received just

my thought I see too many people with these permits and a counter tag this means only one thing there filling their land owners permits somewhere other than their land.

If you own land and receive permits for said land that you own that don't cost you anything to get you should not be allowed to by an over counter tag to hunt on land that you don't own until the land owner permits that you received have been filled for your property that you received just my thought I see too many people with these permits and a counter tag this means only one thing, they're filling their landowner's permits somewhere other than their land.

I agree with reducing the firearms season length. The antlerless season should be eliminated until the deer herd reaches appropriate populations. The does have been over hunted for several years, especially in the Northwest region. I do not think crossbows should be allowed during the archery season until the deer herd reaches a sustainable population.

I'd prefer you move the gun season and shorten it even more. I'm not in favor of the youth seasons at all. There were no youth seasons when I was growing up and everyone hunted. Giving kids special seasons is not the answer to recruiting hunters. I'm also not in favor of the use of crossbows throughout archery season, maybe give them a week during early archery season and the primitive weapon season. I like limiting the buck harvest. I would be in favor of a one buck limit through all seasons.

Let me start by saying, having grown up in a farming family which has raised cattle for over a 100 years, the antler point restriction makes absolutely no sense. When breeding cattle you want to weed out poor genetics. So why would we say we are trying to grow bigger bucks by only allowing the bigger bucks to be killed and allowing spikes and 3 1/2 and older 6 pointers and such survive and pass on their poor genetics when those are the deer which need to be culled to grow bigger bucks. I would like to see the antler point restriction done away with and see an earn a buck system put in place. Implement a Saturday and Sunday antlerless season prior to regular rifle season where you can earn you buck tag. Along with that, I would like to see the does have to be checked in at a check in station prior to eligibility to check in a buck. I would like to see tele check aborted. It has taken away from the comradery of deer hunting. Next I would like to see the alternative portion season to be ahead or the antlerless portion. I trophy and meat hunt. By moving it it would allow others and myself to trophy hunt both the regular and alternative seasons and then if we did not shoot our trophy animal we can use our any deer tag and put meat in the freezer. I started deer hunting when we had a doe season in January and I rather enjoy the years I was able to doe hunt in the snow. Wounded animals were easier to track and recover as well as see during the hunt. I am fine with shortening the doe season, the addition of crossbow to bow season, and all of the methods allowed during the alternative methods season. I would also like to see residents being returned to a total tag amount of 3 deer able to be taken.

I especially like the idea of reducing the number of antlered archery deer to one per year. Also, to simplify the regulations on public hunting areas, since I do most of my deer hunting on public areas it can be difficult to keep all the different areas straight.

1. Suggest you don't give up entirely on pushing back the November firearms season by one week. Continue to promote the idea of moving it back a full week, but as a starting point move it

back two days the first year, then two days the second year, and finally two days in year three.
2. Nothing that I see published addresses the alternative methods season. I recommend you leave it unchanged. 3. I support the idea of restricting methods of take on department conservation areas, for example, only permitting alternative methods during both the November firearms and the alternative hunting seasons, as is the case with Lower Hamburg Bend.

I would support all the proposed changes however, I don't feel youth need an additional season following one and the regular season with doe season available. Nor do crossbows need to be in archery season w/o a handicapped permit.

Definitely in favor of crossbow use during bow season, also would like to see alternative methods season moved up in date, also believe local farmers especially row crop farmers have more input on deer management, no one knows more about the population of deer on my 750 acres than I do! but no one has asked me I've hunted deer for fifty years all on this property,

Deer herd in Ste.Genevieve Co. really declining.

I see no reason for shortening the firearm portion of deer season. I do not agree with only one antlered deer during the archery portion of the season. The way it is setup now you can only shoot one buck before firearm season and the rut is over by the end of firearm season so the does are still able to be bred by a mature buck. I totally disagree with moving the late portion of youth season up this does not allow the deer adequate time to calm down after firearm season, and the kids chances are greatly reduced. The time frame for the late youth season is perfect the way it is now the deer are getting back to a feeding and bedding pattern which increases the chance for our kids to harvest a deer.

Why not reduce the antlerless season to 7 days rather than 3? 11 to 3 is a little drastic, 7 would hit it right in the middle. If your goals aren't accomplished you can always revise the numbers up or down based on data. What's wrong with allowing one buck before and one after rather than allowing 2 after if you don't shoot one before? The rest sound reasonable.

Firearms Season Changes: 1) Maintain the current timing of the November portion and reduce the length to 9 days. Agree with maintaining the current timing. Disagree with reducing to 9 days. Moon, weather conditions, etc, affect this season greatly. The extra 2 days only slightly increase one's chances. In many cases the primary rut has already ended prior to the season opener in our area. Would like to see the figures on the number of deer harvested these last 2 "extended" day. 2) Expand the late youth portion to 3-days beginning the first Friday after Thanksgiving instead of early January. Disagree. Maintain the early youth season as is & cancel the late season. Hunting 3 days after Thanksgiving will only encourage "Adults" to further harvest deer on the behalf of youth's. A practice, which if we're all honest, happens! 3) Reduce the length of the antlerless portion to 3-days and begin on the first Friday in December. Disagree. Most does are already bred by this time. So in essence, kill 1 doe- kill 3 deer. Enough does should be managed during the regular gun season & archery seasons to justify doing away with an antlerless season. 4) Eliminate the urban zones portion. No Opinion. Archery Season Changes:

1) Allow crossbows as a legal method during the archery deer and turkey season. Disagree. We

don't need to follow suit with Kentucky on every issue. We won't see an increase in youth hunters, (Crossbows aren't cheap either) but may however see an increase in older adults. Consideration should be given to one's inability to draw a bow, therefore resulting in a permit to use the crossbow. I believe you'll see an increase in unrecovered game, as a large portion of crossbowers believe they have increased range & accuracy, which is not the case and classically don't put in the required practice time as opposed to bowhunters. Ky, Oh, etc figures should confirm that there is no advantage to the average outdoors having a crossbow afield. We speak about reducing the number of antlered deer a bowhunter can take, but use the base that the crossbow will get more hunters afield? 2)Reduce the limit of antlered deer during the archery season to 1. Disagree. Would like to see the figures on how many bowhunters actually harvest (2) antlered deer per season. Bowhunters are normally better judges of deer quality than other hunters as they're close quarters to their game, therefore able to better judge. Would also reference the point restriction rule. *Conservation Area Regulations: 1)Simplify conservation area regulations by limiting methods and use of firearms and archery antlerless permits. No Opinion.

For the proposed crossbow during archery change, if I wanted to shoot one with a gun then it wouldn't be archery. A crossbow is just the same as a firearm for ease of use. Drawing a bow in close range is what makes this a challenge. Please keep archery season the way it is now, 2 bucks and bows only .

I like the timing and going back to 9 days this time frame covers 2 weekends, and like letting the youth start the day after Thanksgiving for a 3 day weekend assume the early youth will still be in effect, this is great to get young folks into this sport. Kinda wonder about elimination of the Urban Hunts, how do you plan to control deer around the areas where there is no hunting pressure, think here would be a good place to allow crossbows, also think allowing folks over 55 to use crossbows as this might allow those older to get out and enjoy hunting again that can't pull a bow or compound bow?

Sounds like some good changes. I don't think crossbows should be legal without a special permit or handicap. I don't hunt the urban zone hunts but I would think these area would be too priority on population control. Don't understand ending it less numbers are way low.

Though I am not against the idea of using crossbows, I think that if allowed, the number of hunters will increase during the archery season. More hunters in the woods = more dead deer. Most hunters do not fill their second antlered tag, I think there will be a higher kill than before. One reason the late season was started was to give them a chance to use guns they may have received for Christmas. Moving the season up will not only eliminate that chance, but will also increase the kill. I understand shortening the firearms season to decrease the kill, but moving the late youth may even things out. I think non-resident tags should be raised significantly. I live five miles south of the Iowa border. It will end up costing almost six hundred dollars for me to hunt up there if I am lucky enough to draw a permit. I see a really high number of non-residents around here because of the cheap, easy to obtain permits.

As a Mo. landowner and misplaced resident for 20 years, first let me say I appreciate the opportunity for comment and in general salute the MDC for their excellence. I have lived in several border states, none compare to the MDC. I support all of these changes, especially the Youth Hunt change, except the crossbow use during archery season. My bow hunting started at 13 shooting frogs and then moved to deer hunting at Mingo. I've owned a crossbow, it is not the same. It may be primitive, but I cannot consider it bow hunting. Please consider an alternative solution. I sincerely thank you for your dedication to wildlife in Mo. and the opportunity to opine.

Hello, I believe most of the ideas are good ones for change with the following exceptions: 1. It seems to me, an average hunter with average time off, that the notion of reducing antlerless season to only three days would be unnecessarily drastic. I imagine that far fewer hunters would even bother to buy the license since the season would be restrictively short for so many folks. I also question why it is necessary to cut back to just three days. Is the herd really that bad off, I doubt it. 2. The rationale explained on the MDC site behind the idea to discontinue urban zone hunting does not correspond to what I've been reading on deer numbers in those zones. I recommend that if urban zone hunting is to be reduced, all urban zones need to be scrutinized so that the original benefits for both hunters and communities are not lost with the swooping elimination state wide. 3. Concerning crossbows; I believe these weapons are extremely dangerous and with the emphasis stated to be the inclusion of more youth, I will be a little more paranoid in the woods next year if this passes. Thank you, C.H.

I am in favor of the proposed deer season changes, especially the late youth season. Nothing was said about the alternative season, I would hope it remains.

I live in Cooter, Missouri but I hunt in Mark Twain National Forest in Briar, Missouri. I am all for the reduction of firearms hunting days but am totally against the legalization of using crossbows and the reduction of the number of bucks one can harvest during archery season. Please do not change anything concerning archery. It is hard work to harvest a deer with a bow and those of us who enjoy this method of hunting should be rewarded for our hard work by being able to harvest a 2 bucks. In my opinion bow hunters are not depleting the deer population.

I am against allowing crossbows during archery season, except to those medically unable to hunt with compound or other bows. Those that prefer crossbows can hunt with them during firearms and alternative seasons. I also am against reducing antlered deer to one during archery season. It would reduce my days in the woods if I harvested an antlered deer early, and did not have a second tag for late season. I personally would like firearms season pushed back so it is not during prime rutting time. This would make Missouri the premier big buck state in a few short years.

I like the idea of a 9 day rifle season. As for the youth season, it should be left alone on timing however I feel that the youth season should be antlerless only. A doe is a trophy for a kid. there are too many big bucks being wounded because the conservation doesn't have an age minimum and the caliber minimum is too low. Also, I feel that the youth season is just an excuse for the parent to be harvesting deer when they aren't allowed. I hear about a 5 year old shooting a high powered rifle, who is dumber the parents or the conservation to allow it. Next, I like the idea of a

3 day antlerless season. The guns are on the deer for too long. As for the urban zone, I can't comment because I don't live in the urban zone so it does not affect me. The archery season should be left alone. It is completely crazy to consider making crossbows legal for everyone to use. That would be like allowing shotgun slugs during archery season. Archery season is meant to be challenging, not butchering. I know a lot of bow hunters that don't approve of the thought of using crossbows. The conservation areas are fine. They don't need to open antlerless permits in those areas. What people need to understand is, as a sportsman you should respect the animal that you love to pursue and sometimes you have to sacrifice today to save for tomorrow and so should the conservation.

I can agree with the changes EXCEPT the use of Crossbows. Ya'll are wrong about their use. I've been a bow hunter for 40 yrs. and the large percentage of the people that use crossbows should not be allowed most are people too lazy to go out and practice with a conventional bow and they all think by using a cross bow they think they should shoot out to 80yds, they seldom practice more than a couple shots a year with their equipment I classify them as slob hunters, I want to know who in the Conservation Dept is taking the payoff from the crossbow companies, when do 10,000 crossbow hunters speak for over a 125,000 plus bow hunters in the state of Mo. I'll say this again crossbows are wrong for the state of Mo.

I will be out of town and unable to attend any of the public meetings but wanted to share my opinions on the issues at hand. I would support keeping the current length of the November rifle season the same, however I could see some major benefits to the herd to move the season away from the rut so I would support that. I think it helps to give people with a tight work/family schedule more of an opportunity to get out and spend some time hunting, also it gives people more of a chance to chase that trophy which brings tons of money to various businesses. I would also support expanding the youth portion to give more of a chance for people to have time to spend in the woods with the kids. I would support reducing the length of the antlerless portion, in reality I would support eliminating the antlerless portion all together. I would support keeping the current regulations in place regarding crossbows. I am indifferent concerning the urban zones. I would like to keep the limit on antlered deer during archery season the same. From my experience the people who complain about not having or seeing much deer are not doing much work to support a health deer herd on their land. The rest of us that spend all summer building habitat and feeding grounds and have spent countless hours checking pics and spotting deer to keep track of doe to buck ratios, and try to keep them in check during season by setting rules within our hunting party should be able to harvest several deer if our herd supports it. I have also never had a problem understanding conservation area regulations however if you are getting complaints about them than I would support changing them.

Hello, my name is R.S. Thank you for taking the time to read my thoughts on the proposed regulations for the future whitetail hunting seasons. First I would like to cover in my opinion the most crucial proposal, allowing crossbows as a legal method of harvest during archery season. This change to the regulations in my opinion is a horrible idea. There are many reasons why this should not be allowed. The biggest reason in my opinion would be a dramatic drop in trophy

buck population, caused by a dramatic number increased in bucks killed. In my experience as a bow hunter the prime time to hunt whitetail bucks is the last week of October and the first week of November. Being that these date are during archery season, more hunters will enter the woods than ever before, with I might add, a different mindset than a traditional bow hunter. Crossbows are more accurate due to their design, shoot farther and faster than compound/recurve bows. That being said the target area on a deer has been enlarged and the distance it can be shot at would be farther. The farthest on average I am comfortable shooting at a deer with my bow is roughly 40 yds. A 40 yrd radius creates an 80 yrd diameter circle. A circle of this size is $(40\text{yds squared} \times 3.14) = 5024$ square feet I am capable of shooting at a deer. With a crossbow however, due to the speed and accuracy of this device, I would feel fine shooting at a distance of 60+ yds. The square foot difference is a very significant amount, a 120 yrd circle is $(60\text{ yds squared} \times 3.14) = 11304$ square feet! THAT IS MORE THAN DOUBLE! A 20 yrd difference in shooting distance had statistically double your chances at shooting at a deer. Countless times I have had trophy bucks pass by 10 yds too far, but you don't hear me complain, it's part of the challenge. With this extra capability many hunters will become lazy and take far more risky shots due to less practice and discipline needed with a crossbow. I have just covered the tip of the iceberg here thus far. If a crossbow would like to be used in pursuit of a whitetail, it can be used in the firearms portion or alt method portion of the season. Crossbows are an excuse for laziness. I do however support the use of crossbows if an individual is handicapped and not capable of properly using a recurve/compound bow. I live in Osage County and have seen a steady rise in the number of quality bucks harvested over the last 10 years. On the contrary though I have seen a steady decline in doe numbers. Extended doe season should be eliminated or the number of tags purchased should stay the same of slightly lower than of this year. I appreciate the efforts done this season to help the population by limiting tags. The fact that youth season normally fall on what I consider the best weekend of the year to hunt, I think that all youth hunters should have to follow the same regulations and point restrictions as adults. Introducing youth to the sport is a great thing but we are already giving them a great opportunity by allowing them to hunt the best weekend of the year and before all others during firearms season. Until this year I have never shot two bucks. I shot both with my bow, one during archery season and another during firearms season. This tactic allowed me to harvest two bucks, but no using two archery tags. With this being said I think it's a great Idea to change the limit from 2 to 1 antlered deer with archery tags. If someone would like the chance to harvest 2 bucks in a year they can pursue the with both archery and firearms tags. Thank you for your time and I appreciate this opportunity. Sincerely, R.S.

Please allow private landowners the ability to manage their respective properties. We have actively managed our deer numbers. We didn't experience a major disease die off and had one of the better seasons for harvesting mature bucks with several 3 and 4 year old bucks left for next year. EDUCATION is the key to proper management. Not using micromanagement techniques to micromanage. If I have one dry doe we try to harvest it, if we have 4 dry does try to harvest for the betterment of the herd. The conservation should micromanage it's properties individually

as well through regulations. The bulk of the land, therefore the deer herd, is managed by private landowners. Please allow us the tags and seasons to properly manage. Again, Education is key to a stable herd. Not the boom and bust season/tag management strategy cycle we are currently in!

I think we should move the rifle season out of the rut to the first week of December and keep the two buck limit for the whole season but if you don't harvest your buck during the gun season you can fill that tag with your bow during the second bow season. I also think we should raise the price of our tags to compare the three big buck stats around us, non-res should only be able to harvest one buck. I'm all for extending youth seasons and am on the fence about the crossbow hunting. I think we should limit our doe harvest with gun but not the bow. My family primarily lives off deer meat and if we can at the minimal have 4-5 doe with our bow I could live with that.

Please, do not ruin the archery season by allowing crossbows in the same fashion that the "muzzleloader" season has been ruined by "all other methods". The archery season has been a blessing, especially for those of us that cannot hunt private land, by giving us a season when the woods are not literally overrun with hunters. There is no comparing hunting with a bow and hunting with a crossbow -- I've shot both. The deer season was great as it was, with the exception of the quality deer management addition of antler point restrictions that are teaching young hunters that it's about trophies, and it appears as though y'all are bound and determined to mess it up. How about simply leaving it alone and limiting the number of antlerless permits? Have to admit, with my current access to land (or lack of it), crossbows during archery season is about going to do in my deer hunting and lead me back to being a squirrel hunter -- which is looking better and better anyway as I don't have to fight off people for spots and argue with folks that have just driven in from another state about where I'm going to put up a stand. It's getting silly out there, and the Trophy Madness is at the root of it. People aren't spending that much money and time driving in from other states to hunt for thirty or forty pounds of meat.

I do not agree with shortening the antlerless season to 3 days. I do not agree with the use of cross bows during archery season unless there is a medical reason. I do think that only 1 antlered deer should be taken during the archery season. I support leaving the November portion timing with only a 9 day season

Maintain the current timing of November portion at 11-days. I agree with expanding the late portion of the youth hunt to 3-days beginning the first Friday after Thanksgiving. Reduce antlerless to 3-days beginning with first Friday in December. Do not allow crossbows during archery method of deer & turkey unless of disability. Agree with reducing antlered deer to 1 for archery portion.

Do not allow crossbows during archery season unless the person has an exemption from a doctor. If we are worried about deer numbers being down this definitely won't help the cause. I think we should keep archery season the way it is! Move rifle season out of the rut if you want to stabilize the dwindling deer herd and limit rifle tags.

Like the shortened firearm season. Like shortened antlerless season. Seems like I have seen very few does the last two seasons. Prefer archery hunting, so not in favor of moving late youth

season. Not in favor of crossbows, archery is supposed to be challenging. Maybe the alternative season is good for crossbows.

Shortening the deer season by two days when hunter participation is very low and creating a youth season when every kid in the state is off of school will just limit adult hunting opportunities and probably increase the overall deer kill. I'm opposed. I do support limiting the number of bucks during archery season and I am a bow hunter

I deer hunt using traditional archery equipment. I use traditional archery equipment knowing and accepting that I must compete with archers using compound bows and the latest gadgets. If I must also compete with crossbows, then I will decline to participate. I don't believe archery includes weapons with triggers and scopes and I won't be associated with it. I appreciate your willingness to hear comments and I hope you do not ruin archery season to appease the crossbow crowd. The regulations are fine as they are.

I don't like the idea of making crossbows legal. Too many deer will be killed. That's almost like 4 months of rifle season. I think it will hurt our deer population quick. I like all the firearm portion you all are considering. Also, I don't like the reduction to one antlered deer during archery.

I'm ok with all the changes being considered with the exception of allowing crossbows during the archery season. I enjoy bowhunting over rifle hunting because of the lack other so called hunters in the woods. To be efficient with a bow you need to put in a lot of practice and scouting. I feel anyone can pick up a cross bow and walk the woods. I will be really disappointed if this happens.

I don't like the idea of letting anybody use crossbows during archery season, only people with disabilities, or limiting archers to only 1 antlered deer per season. I'm just curious how many bowhunters actually kill a second buck after gun season.

I accept all the changes in the upcoming year besides the crossbow during archery season, also I would like to see the four point in the southwest area of Missouri so we can grow more mature deer down here. Thank you.

Changing the length of the seasons isn't fair to those of us that don't have the opportunity to hunt every day of a season. When I can only hunt on certain days it's going to lesson my chances to tag if you reduce the amount of days able to hunt. As for the 2 to 1 antlered change during archery season I think it would be a good idea. So called "trophy" hunters should be allowed to tag a buck every chance they get making it hard for those of us that only hunt on limited days of the year.

I agree with most of the proposed changes except allowing crossbows. I believe children and older adults should be allowed to use them during archery season but not everyone. Despite what crossbow enthusiasts say, these weapons do make it much easier to harvest a deer than using a traditional bow.

I would like to see our gun season moved out of the rut and shortened. Get rid of the Urban doe seasons, moving the 2nd youth to the day after thanksgiving is an awesome idea (Also keep the first segment away from Halloween).

I haven't seen the numbers on deer killed on Monday Tuesday day 10 & 11 of rifle season. I think most hunters hunt weekends, especially opening weekend. As a bowhunter and rifle hunter I think crossbows should be restricted to rifle season and those unable to use a regular bow, i.e. kids and disabled or injured hunters. 2nd part of youth season would be good around Thanksgiving except some may be traveling. Also, I think most people hunt less late season. How many people are able to shoot two bucks each year? Urban zones should be limited to size and maybe shotgun only.

I agree with all the proposed management changes.

I am supportive of changes to the November timing of deer season if it is biologically justified. Biologist, not hunters, should be the people who make these decisions. I am also supportive of a reduced November season. I am very supportive of increasing the number of days for youth season and timing. I am supportive of the use of crossbows for archery deer hunting. I believe regulations should be considered on conservation areas to increase the abundance of deer. Restrictions should be placed on the number, sex, size (antler point restrictions) on all conservation areas. I believe a 1 deer limit during all seasons is appropriate for conservation areas, especially since data shows a lower public land success rate.

I understand the need to keep deer populations at desirable levels and you all are assigned a tough job keeping that in check. But my comment is to reduce tags/permits to achieve this goal. Please don't reduce hunting days because some folks have work schedules that allow them to only hunt a few days anyway. Another factor with a reduced season length is weather. With an extended season people can hunt when weather conditions are tolerable to their specific needs. I strongly suggest to limit harvest as needed but please don't shorten seasons. I also think a shortened season would lead to folks feeling rushed potentially taking poor, unsafe shots at animals they normally wouldn't shoot at including bucks that might not be legal under the 4 point rule and wounding animals that they might not have shot at if they had more hunting time.

9 day gun season, yes. Anything for the kids, great. Get rid of antlerless season. Crossbows legal, yes. 1 buck per year any method. Nonresident landowner fees SUCK they should be same as resident.

I agree with and support the proposed changes. I strongly encourage the proposed change to allow crossbows as a legal method during the archery deer and turkey seasons to be adopted and implemented.

All your proposed changes seem in line with the deer harvest we have had in recent years and it all looks good for the future. A few less days is ok. Archery season is another matter, with all the high tech advances in new equipment the season is just too long, Oct.1 thru Dec.31 is more than enough to fill your tags.

Please do not allow the use of crossbows during archery season. Keep the limit at 2 antlered deer for archery season. Do not change late youth portion of deer season.

I do believe that adding crossbow to archery hunting would benefit the sport a lot. As an avid hunter the last three to five years I have noticed the number of deer on my property has declined. All though the mature buck ratio is better. I think charging more for the out of state hunters is a good idea. It benefits MDC by making more money to help manage our wildlife and also help us residents hunt more ground that's not leased by the out of towners do to the permits being cheap. I've tried to hunt both Illinois and Iowa and the price is a lot higher for an out of state hunter than Missouri nonresident. I also think adding nonresidents into a draw would be good. As for limiting the number of days for firearms portion, I think that would benefit the deer herd to where we can get back to hunting 11 days main and 12 antlerless, as I think a lot of the population was hurt with blue tongue. I would like to help manage the deer population to the numbers we had in 2005-2008 thanks for letting me give my ideas.

Firearms: Would like the firearms November portions timing and length to stay the same. Still too many deer in my area of west central Marion County. (extensive damage to my corn crop this year) No strong preferences on other proposed firearms season changes. This wasn't among proposed changes but would like to see alternate season in mid-December. Archery: I'm in favor of crossbows during all archery seasons. I'm in favor of a one antlered deer limit during archery season as long as a person is still allowed one antlered deer during the firearms season, (total of two antlered deer).

As an avid Hunter and Fisherman I cannot express how much I appreciate and respect everything the Missouri Department of Conservation does for the state of Missouri's natural habitats, and the ability for people to enjoy them. That said, I work a forty hour a week job and cannot get out to deer hunt during the week days for rifle season. The ability to go out both weekends means a lot to me and the group I hunt with, which is comprised of 15 individuals of which 11 are not retired. For those of us who are not retired, and also go to school have children and or full time jobs, the ability to hunt for two weekends during rifle season is key to being able to enjoy the season and have a chance at harvesting a deer. Usually during rifle season around five of us will end up harvesting a deer during the first weekend, and four more may harvest a deer the second weekend. Most of us also have other interests and aspects of our lives that require not only time, but also money. I know I personally cannot afford to take days off during the week for deer season for I use my vacation days annually in a very specific manner to be able to hunt, go to fishing and shooting tournaments, and to spend time with family. If the second weekend was removed from the season I would no longer be able to enjoy as much time with friends, whom I usually only get to see during deer season and a few other weekends for working at the property. I wholeheartedly believe this would cause problems with others as well. Thank you very much for your time and I hope you take my opinion into consideration, I would hate to lose the time with friends and potentially the opportunity to harvest a deer, which at most I harvest one a year.

I would like to see deer managed for trophy bucks (4.5 years or more). I enjoy the long seasons but want what's best for the herd. I would like to do away with the second youth season all

together. Keep the crossbow rules the same. Maybe replace the second youth season with a crossbow season. Thanks J.

Do not change the archery season antlered limit. Since you can only kill your second buck after firearm season, it is extremely hard and challenging to do so and I love it but vary rarely do I get the opportunity to do so. The deer do not move as much and are extremely uneasy. Whoever came up with this idea is for surly not a bow hunter!

I feel that if you're going to have youth season, make it does only. Too many parents are killing deer for their children to tag. I understand that you want the younger generation to get involved in hunting, but at the cost of hunter ethics is not the way.

I am in full support of all the proposed regulation changes. I personally feel the use of a crossbow does not change your odds (archery hunting is archery hunting). I would like to allow our bucks (statewide) to be able reach the older age class necessary to achieve their full potential. I would like to the rifle season moved out of the middle of November! Too many of our mature bucks are harvested by weekend warriors because of the timing of our firearms season. I would LOVE to hunt the whole month of November without hearing one single gunshot. Here in Missouri we have the potential to grow a world class deer herd SECOND TO NONE! Lastly, I believe there should be a surcharge or drawing to residents of neighboring states that do not allow over the counter tags, fair is fair.

Let's cut the crap! Everyone knows why our deer herd is going down the drain but until the MDC and the Missouri government stops being greedy nothing will change until we have no deer left. I've been hunting since the early 90's and ever since the doe tags started selling over the counter the deer numbers have dropped. We do need some doe management but not in excess. Everyone needs to understand that with the outdoor channel and just more people these days the number of hunters has dramatically increased so the old methods need to be adjusted. THE GUN SEASON IN THE RUT AND THE UNLIMITED DOE TAGS ARE 100% THE PROBLEM! Shortening the rifle season by 2 days is just plain dumb! The city people and idiots that think they need to shoot every deer they see mainly hunt the weekends anyway so by the last 2 days of season the damage has already been done. If the MDC really wants to better our deer herd then you guys need to look at how Iowa, Kansas, and Illinois manage theirs.

I think keeping the main portion of firearms season the same start time is a good idea. Lopping two days off the end I am ambivalent about. The change to the youth late season is good, as is the firearms antlerless change. As a senior hunter, allowing crossbows during the archery season I think is a great idea. I don't think there is any need to allow more than one antlered deer during archery season. I wouldn't harvest two at any rate.

Firearms Season: Do Maintain current November time frame and limit to 9 days. Do not Expand the Youth Deer Season. Too frequently "Youth Season" is a euphemism for another adult season. Do reduce the antlerless portion of the season. Or, eliminate it entirely. Do eliminate the urban zones. I live just outside of an Urban Zone. I suspect that some of the deer hanging in trees during the urban zone hunt actually were taken elsewhere. Do not allow crossbows during any archery season. Crossbows and airguns allow hunters to trespass in stealth mode. My wife found

a crossbow bolt with broad head under her tree stand on our property last year. Do limit the number of antlered deer taken on archery tags to one. 4-pt bucks are very difficult to identify and hunters need to be able to take as many looks as possible - keep as many bucks in the woods as possible and/or eliminate the 4-pt rule entirely. Do eliminate the 4 point rule on my property in Cass County. Thank you for considering my input. T.T. Harrisonville, Mo.

I do not support limiting antlered deer during archery season to one. If I already kill a buck before rifle season with a bow I will likely not bow hunt after rifle season for a doe. You will find many hunters won't. If I had another buck tag it will get me in the woods. I normally bow hunt up to the end in January. With that extra buck tag getting me in the woods I will more likely shoot a doe at some point when my buck hunting is unsuccessful. I don't see how limiting bucks to just one during archery season will make any difference when your stats from your site show only 0.3% of archery hunters take 2 antlered bucks.

I agree with all proposed changes except for allowing crossbow as an allowable method during the archery season. Crossbow is already allowed with a special permit for those who physically cannot shoot a bow and there are plenty of youth bow options for young hunters. Allowing a crossbow during an alternative season would be more reasonable than during the archery season itself.

Don't shorten regular season -- unless you cut the days out of the middle of the week; Agree with everything else. Particularly like the idea of allowing crossbows during bow season. Gives me hope for being able to participate in the longer bow season as I approach retirement.

I would be in favor of moving the gun season back one week. Reducing the season by two days is a good start, but moving it back would make more progress in helping insure an older age class of bucks. Reducing the doe season is wonderful as most Missouri hunters cannot self-regulate and shoot more deer than necessary. Moving the youth season is good as well. I love bow hunting deer and would hate to give up hunting after gun season if I was successful early season but understand the biology behind it. What about being allowed to use an unfilled gun buck tag during late bow season? A two buck limit....2 bow or 1 gun 1 bow? I don't think I have ever killed 3 bucks so it's not a huge deal if I only get 2 buck tags.

I would not be in favor of allowing crossbow during archery season. Crossbows are already cocked and in my opinion makes it easier. You are going to increase buck kills by allowing them and I think you are trying to do the opposite with your new regulations.

I would like to see you change resident landowner tags. Everybody who owns 5 acres doesn't need unlimited tags for everybody who lives in the house. Raise the total acres or completely do away with them. Resident deer tags are cheap compared to what a movie or trip to the stadium to watch a Royals game cost. People can buy tags and not be in fear of missing a mortgage payment.

You guys do an awesome job and I love being able to hunt deer. Thanks for all the good work.

I like all the proposed changes, except the use of crossbows during the archery season. I've been bowhunting for 20 years. I don't feel a crossbow is near as challenging as traditional archery and

shouldn't be allowed during the same season.

Thank you, J.

I like everything that's been suggested! We need to manage our deer heard in the state , not saying it's bad but we can do better! I'm a trapper also and think the Conservation Department needs to look into extending the trapping season by 15 days to the first of November, just a thought!

Agree to allow crossbow for archery season.

Agree reducing firearms season from 11 to 9 days.

I would prefer to keep the current 11 day firearms season. I rarely get to hunt more than 3 or 4 days, and I prefer to hunt during weekdays when fewer hunters are out. I don't object to the other proposed changes. I would support alternating antlerless seasons, so that the antlerless portion is opened on odd, or even numbered years.

I enjoy taking vacation time during deer season. I would like to keep the 11 days during regular deer season. This gives me more time to go to the woods. I do not think reducing the days will change the total outcome for the deer harvesting. Only the true hunters spend the most time hunting. I would agree with moving the youth 2nd season back to thanksgiving weekend. This could help with attracting more youth hunters. I disagree that reducing the antlerless portion would change the outcome. Maybe continuing the one antlerless deer per county would be good. I am for using the crossbow during archery season and for eliminating urban portion.

I like all the changes, but way more needs to be done on conservation areas to increase deer herd and open up more firearms hunting. I complained years ago because of unlimited doe tag usage at Poosey. One local man had 7 does in the back of his truck opening day at Poosey. Limiting all conservation areas open to firearms to anydeer tags so only one deer is taken on CA's. If a hunter wants to get more they can hunt Mark Twain NF. I also think the 4 point rule is wrong for landowners. We need the flexibility to manage the deer on our property.

The only thing I see I would disagree with is the use of crossbow during archery season. Technology has come too far to allow the crossbow in any season other than gun season. It will basically open it up to anybody who can pull the trigger to bow hunt. It will severely damage the overall class and skill level of a dedicated group of hunters who have spent a large part of their lifetime using their hunting skills. These things have scopes, assisted draws, and triggers. It's not even close to archery equipment.

There is no reason for shortening our deer season. Are the tags going to be cheaper? A shorter more restricted season should not cost me as much for a tag. I hunt responsibly, as most people I know do. We have jobs that limit our hunting too much already. Also there is no reason that so many of the woods roads, or "TRAILS" should be blocked off to all vehicle travel. How can we use our resources if we cannot access them? There is no acceptable reason for shortening OUR deer season. There is no acceptable reason for all the new "management" areas that are shut down to only foot travel. There have been roads here for decades that haven't hurt anything. Please quit blocking my access to the public land I spend most of my life on, and please leave our deer season alone. Thanks...

I totally agree with the reduction of rifle season to 9 days, reducing antlerless season to 3 days, having the late youth season on Thanksgiving weekend, dropping the urban season and adding the crossbow in bow season to increase younger hunters and hanging on to the older hunters. Reducing the doe permits in archery will along with the other changes allow our state herd to build back up. The only thing I would like to see removed is the free landowner tags to people with only 5 acres, that is hard to watch over.

Regarding allowing of crossbows during archery season, you might as well allow rifles during archery season because a crossbow is a gun with a different kind of projectile. The limit of one buck during archery season will limit the hunters and young hunters in the woods during archery season I think if you limit this you will lose money from archery tags. Instead of reducing the days of gun season you need to move it later in the season like Iowa does. This will allow the does to get bred by the bigger bucks before getting killed.

I strongly support the use of crossbows during archery season. The length of firearms season is about right to accommodate for poor weather conditions during hunting. Youth season should be earlier it is too close to rifle season.

Gun Season

I like most of the ideas proposed EXCEPT LEAVING THE TIME FRAME THE SAME. We desperately need to move our rifle season off of the RUT to attain an older age class of bucks.

Archery Season

I believe limiting the buck tags to 1 during archery season is a completely misguided way to attempt to get our buck population to an older age class. If you truly want to accomplish this then follow the tested and proved method used by many other state's MOVE OUR GUN SEASON OFF OF THE RUT!!! Look at Iowa it works!

Only disabled people should be able to use a crossbow during archery season. It's wrong and an insult to all of us who put in the work and practice time. If people other than the disabled want to use a crossbow to deer hunt they can continue to do it during the rifle or alternative seasons. This is not a way to get more youth into bow hunting. If you want more youth archery hunters then open some public ranges where they can practice with their parents and sponsor some youth tournaments.

Good recommendations:

I would like to see the November firearms season moved to the first week in December. Move the first youth season up to early October. I like all the rest of the proposals.

Good recommendations:

I would be for decreasing the number of hunting days. As it is, we are missing a lot of good weather to enjoy our outdoor hobbies for things other than deer hunting. I would think that the deer hunters would be able to schedule their outings within a smaller timeframe given enough notice.

I think the cost of nonresident tags should be 350\400 dollars I go out of state it cost 500.

The youth season would be great after Thanksgiving.

If you only allow 1 antlered deer that would be crazy.

Only allow non-residents 1 antlered deer.

Out of state people draw for rifle tags.

Crossbows are not archery anymore besides they shoot an arrow.

While self-serving, I will tell you why I, a non-resident, find your fees too high. I've lived in MO for nearly 25 years until my wife brought me to MN. I would love to return one day. I return for deer season every year, but only as a spectator. I can hunt big deer in MN. When I get to Gasconade County, MO, the deer are likely on average 30 or more pounds smaller than my alternative in the north. I can buy a LOT of meat at a store for \$225. In our hunting camp of 17, four of us find ourselves nonresidents. Yet, we typically spend more money in MO as we travel, and we contribute as much as our resident hunters in maintaining the habitat on the private land they hunt. Further, I get no extra benefits for paying a premium to hunt compared to a resident. As such, you will continue to see me visit MO to be with family for deer season, but not actually hunt. The price is just too high.

DO NOT allow crossbows to be used during archery season. A crossbow is a firearm and in my opinion the same as hunting with a gun. Archery season has always been an opportunity to pursue deer with a challenge. Crossbows takes the challenge out of hunting deer.

I would like to see the proposed changes begin with the 2015 / 2016 seasons. Allowing the use of a crossbow during the archery season is long overdue.

For years I use to rifle hunt deer season over the last two years I have only bow hunted. There are too many dummies that hunt public land with rifles to the point of being dangerous. Bow hunting is a lot more peaceful and less hunters . Most bow hunters have better hunting ethics than a lot of hunters who crash through the woods with a gun. Making crossbows legal during bow season gives these dummies just an arrow strapped to a gun to crash through the woods with. I think it will ruin bow season for a lot of hunters who put the time and effort into the hunt.

I like the use of crossbows for archery, drop firearms season to 9 days, expand late youth hunt to 3 days, limit one antlered deer during archery season.

I am strongly against all of the proposed changes except for changing the late youth season and allowing crossbows during the archery season. Missouri Department of Conservation has a great program in place as is and sets the standard for many other states. I for one am a very busy person and do not like any talk of shortened seasons which will reduce not only mine but many other hunters chances to get in the field. I spend hundreds of dollars and hours each year on wildlife habitat management and improvements and do not want the ability of being able to benefit from the hard work to be cut short! As for the reduction of antlered archery permits I do not believe that many people fill both tags but I value the ability of landowners to have another tool to manage the deer herd on their property. I understand that hunters want to see more Bucks but I do not think that is the way to go about it. I believe the 4 point antler restriction should be statewide and that we as hunters and an agency need to do a better job and provide factual

information on aging deer on the hoof and the benefits of letting younger deer walk and being able to reach their full potential. On a final note I strongly encourage you to continue the urban portion of the Firearms season as that is a great opportunity for me and many landowners to help manage our farms in urban settings where there is an overabundance of deer which cause property damage to home gardens and are often hit by vehicles.

As a former Missouri resident who returns home to hunt each year I was glad to hear that the MDC is considering changes to the deer seasons. After spending a few years in Iowa I have been fortunate enough to see first-hand how a well-balanced deer herd leads to more exciting hunts and better trophy quality. I was disappointed to see the changes that MDC is recommending. On my family's farm deer populations are probably 50-60% of what they were 5 years ago. Diseases and increased hunting pressure have pushed populations to these low levels. Also, more hunters are looking for better trophy quality and are disappointed by these low deer numbers. The changes that are being suggested will have virtually no impact on the deer population or trophy quality. How many bowhunters actually kill 2 bucks with a bow in a year? I'm guessing it's a negligible amount. What percentage of the firearms deer harvest take place on the last Monday and Tuesday of the season? I'm assuming this is a negligible number as well. Also, with the firearms season still in the rut this will make no positive impact on trophy quality. When you look at famous "big buck" stags across the Midwest virtually none have rifle seasons in the peak of the rut. There is no reason Missouri couldn't have the same trophy potential as Iowa or Kansas by simply moving the firearms season out of the rut. I strive in my own life to live up to my fullest potential. Missouri is not currently living up to its potential when it comes to deer hunting quality due to the poor timing of the firearms deer season. Please start the firearms deer season the Saturday after Thanksgiving to truly make Missouri have the best hunting potential it can have.

1. No, to crossbows in archery season ~ plenty of time during various firearm seasons. 2. Two bucks are fine during archery season ~ rarely are 2 taken and gives archers motivation to go out in late season. 3. Move gun season out of rut and then limit 1 buck. 4. Just too many different seasons adds too much pressure.

In Favor of reducing firearms from 11 to 9. In favor of 1 Buck during Archery. In favor of reducing antlerless season. Not in favor of crossbow during archery. Not in favor of expanding youth season. ** No more nuisance tags. I know farmers that abuse this.

Concerning the reduction of the firearms portion of the Deer Season; Experience, at least in this area of Mo, has shown that almost all of the activity during this season takes place within the first five-six days. Dropping two days should have little if any effect on hunting pressure here. Concerning the Archery changes; having been an avid Bow Hunter, using either a Long Bow or Compound for almost 30 years, and now due to physical restraints, having to use a crossbow, I have concluded that the arguments against crossbows are pretty much garbage. If anything, they are harder to hunt with than a "standard" bow. AND, with the object being to produce a "clean" kill, a crossbow offers a significantly better chance. (Unfortunately, way too many "archers" can't hit a hay bale at 10 yards!) Reducing the number of antlered deer from two to one is also

something I can live with. On the remaining changes, I have no comment. HOWEVER, on the Alternative season, it would help if there was some clarification concerning checking in a kill, particularly concerning crossbow use during that season. While a deer killed using a MZ/CF handgun would obviously be checked in under a firearms tag, does a hunter using a crossbow use a firearms or archery tag? It would seem logical that as a crossbow is a legal method during the firearms season, that its use during the Alternative season would require a firearms tag, however, what about the individual that has the crossbow exemption? Concerning non-resident deer tag costs; one needs to take into consideration the positive, economic impact non-resident hunters bring. Too many residents take the position that non-resident hunters are killing "our" deer, without taking into account how much money they spend above and beyond the cost of a tag.

The removal of 2 days from the firearm portion will have minimal impact on most hunters. I believe archery hunters should only be allowed to kill one buck same as firearms hunters. I feel the change in youth hunting is coming at the expense of the antlerless portion of the firearms season. The youth season is picking up another day and those 3 days are right upon the antlerless portion. I like the addition of crossbows to archery as at my age I am not able to draw a compound bow heavy enough to bring down a full size deer. With the exception of the youth change I like the new proposals. There is no explanation how this will change the alternative methods portion of the deer season.

I don't think we should change anything as far as crossbows. I feel that the number of antlerless deer tags should be restricted a little more. Maybe by county. Don't feel that archery hunters should only be allowed 1 buck for residents. Or maybe something like 2 bucks with bow none with gun or 1 with gun 1 with bow let the hunter decided just not more than 1 with gun/alternative method. Maybe even the second buck have antler restrictions. As far as cost for nonresidents it should cost them what nonresident tags cost in their state. The problem with unlimited antlerless tags is not necessarily the number of deer killed its people hunt the same area. Then the deer get killed out in that area. If they could only kill one antlerless in that county then have to go to different county to get another one they could still fill the freezer but not hurt the heard so bad spread the harvest out. Thanks for your time and caring!

I really like the idea of allowing crossbows during archery season. I also say YES to allowing only one buck taken by a hunter in a year regardless of the method. Please DO NOT shorten our season, if anything the firearms season should be extended or let it go 9 days with a 5 day break then do another weekend for days 10 & 11. If shortening any season, shorten the bow season, especially bow season prior to firearms season.

We live near a conservation area and enjoy viewing the deer last year between Nov 2013 and Sept 2014 the population was nearly zero I am for limiting the number of deer a single hunter can take and also shortening the season.

I recently heard about some of the of the changes being considered for the 2016 deer season. I think that most of these changes are not a bad idea with the goal of a healthy heard in mind. I hate to see firearms season shortened, and I love the opportunity to shoot 2 archery bucks in one season, BUT I do understand that this will result in more mature bucks ultimately. This is

something I am definitely OK with though it is bittersweet. The one thing proposed that I strongly disagree with is the crossbow being allowed for all archery hunters. I'm a supporter of using a real bow unless physically disabled. A bow hunter takes pride in the skill it takes to get that perfect set up, with all the variables taken into account, especially when successful. It's an extreme sense of accomplishment to take a deer with a bow. Allowing anybody to use a crossbow takes a lot of the skill out of it. I think it will also create a false sense of skill for many hunters who otherwise would not bother with archery season resulting in wounded and lost deer from these individuals. If we are trying to keep older guys from feeling like they can't bow hunt anymore, then what about just putting an age limit on a crossbow during archery season such as 40+. This would give every hunter plenty of time to mature as far as archery hunting goes. Time to learn the things they need to know to be an effective bow hunter while they ARE physically able. Time to develop the mindset of only taking reasonable, deadly, and humane shots. I do not want to share the woods with a bunch of guys out there using crossbows just because it's easier. (They wouldn't be out there if they still had to use a traditional bow.) Missouri has a great set of guidelines as of now compared to surrounding states. I would like to see that continue by not allowing any average Joe to have 4 months out of the year to go out and shoot a deer at 60 yards with a crossbow. This is just going to make the deer population continue to drop at an even more accelerated rate. Thanks for allowing the public to give their input as I hope mine is considered.

I agree with the change for crossbow. The dates should stay the same.

I think we need to get the use of crossbows in bow season. I like that you all are trying to add this. Really the whole plan looks good. I would like to see the 2 bucks in bow stay, but I have never used both so it wouldn't be that big of a deal.

I think regular rifle season should be left alone. Youth season should be lengthened. Doe season should be shortened and also Archery tags should be left alone. That is my thought. Thanks for reading this.

A landowner promotes the state and brings other out of state hunters and additional revenue to Mo. The landowner is penalized for not living in Mo. and forced to pay 225 additional taxes to hunt on his own land. In AL, a landowner doesn't even need a license to hunt on their own land. I was born in Mo. and dreamed of owning land there, I made it happen, and still treated as an outsider. There is nothing right about that.

Everything proposed seems logical for a reduced number of deer for certain counties. I really don't see it being a major impact on hunting pressure since most take their harvest opening weekend. I see it only improving hunting conditions so hunters may have the chance to fill a tag instead of a game hog boasting about how many they killed then donate the meat away. I endorse the MDC for making these changes.

I believe that the firearms seasons should be shorter. A lot shorter. Too many deer are being taken each year because of this. I think the youth season idea is a great one! As for archery, I do think crossbows should be allowed to everyone. I think there should be a safety requirement to use the crossbows, because they are very dangerous. As for reducing antlered deer to one for archery. I do not agree with this. Bow hunting is an art and it takes a lot to try and get an animal

within range to shoot it. Not a huge number of deer are taken during archery season and hunters like myself (only bowhunting) may not have an opportunity to shoot anything other than antlered deer. We have to put meat on the table and if we only get the opportunity to shoot 2 antlered animals then we have the right to do so. We cannot point and shoot 50+ yards. Lowering the amount of antlered deer for archery hunting is ludicrous. Thanks so much for your time. I hope my input gets noticed.

I am opposed to moving deer season to a later date. I believe moving it to a later date will reduce the number of hunters due to family travel for the holiday. I agree with the proposal to allow crossbows as a legal method during the archery deer and turkey season.

As far as the changes relating to the length of certain portions of the season I think you guys are in the right track. However, I don't understand why you would eliminate the urban portion. I live in St. Louis County and the numbers are through the roof. I would like to know the reason for eliminating that portion. Now to my main reason for leaving this comment. The proposal of allowing crossbows during regular archery season. I've been in support of allowing crossbows for years. I don't think I'll hunt with a crossbow until I can no longer pull my compound bow. When that time comes I would rather not have to go to a doctor and pay them a wad of cash just to be allowed to use one. Through the years I've witnessed far too many men and women give up on archery hunting for the above mentioned reason. Please consider allowing open crossbow use in Missouri. Keep up the good work. –G.

Should be a definite no to crossbow, if you want to bow hunt then bow hunt. If you want to crossbow then you have alternative. Why would you want to take away our second buck tag on bow hunting, how about we take away youth season where most fathers are shooting a buck for their children and then filling their buck tag? Makes a little more sense than taking away one of my bow tags! When most all bow kills are 30 yards or less it's actually hunting!

I do not agree with the shortening of the rifle deer season nor the date changes due to holiday traveling will limit myself along with others and their time to hunt. I do agree with use of crossbows for those that are not able to use compound bow during bow season.

I agree something needs to be done, deer population in my area is down considerably and I'd like to see some changes made. I would like for you to consider reducing the number of permits available to each hunter rather than shortening the season. Last year I received any deer tags, antlerless tags, and could purchase an unlimited number of doe only tags? I only need one deer. I cannot imagine anyone needing more than two. I'd rather see lower limits instead of shortened seasons which would give more hunters the opportunity to harvest one and still lower the total number of deer harvested. If the department does not feel that method would have a significant impact, then why not do a little of both, shorter season and lower limits. I'll support any decisions made by the department, you do an excellent job and we appreciate your efforts.

1. Crossbows are a gun that shoots a dart (not an arrow) and has a 3 x 9 scope. Younger hunters who shoot Archery in Mo schools can afford a bow & arrows. Crossbows are expensive but the bow companies say the average bow hunter has 3 bows and they want them to "also" have 3 crossbows. It is just about money. I am 69 years old & I shoot a 55# recurve, down from a 65#

recurve. Later I will drop to a 50# or 45# bow as I get older, but it is a bow not a gun shooting darts with a 3x9. 2. Reducing the bow buck kill to one-Yes. 3. Reducing the antlerless season to 3 days-Yes. 4. Youth season, go to 3 days at Thanksgiving-Yes.

I agree with most of the proposed changes. I think only one antlered buck archery tag is good. The only thing I strongly disagree with is allowing the use of crossbows during archery season. If anything allow youths to use them and maintain people physically unable to pull a bow back with a permit use them. Modern crossbows are able to shoot almost as good as muzzleloaders, if we allow crossbows we almost might as well just make the archery season all alternative methods, I don't want to see that happen though. Anyway that's my 2 cents. I just wanted to express my opinion and how much I disagree with crossbow being allowed to those physically capable to draw a bow back.

I don't think the state should reduce the # of firearm days. I agree with expanding the youth hunt to the Thanksgiving weekend. This will increase the opportunity for youth to hunt. I agree with limiting the # of antlered deer during the archery season to 1.

I think the combination of scaling back both the regular firearms season, and reducing the number of days available during the antler-less portion by 75% is too severe. The department is effectively cutting the average firearms hunter's opportunities in half while expanding the opportunity for archery hunters. According to the department's summary of the 2013 season, Firearms hunters purchased over 70% of the permits sold. The department's proposal seeks to radically limit the opportunities afforded the vast majority of hunters, while leaving its policies unchanged regarding archery hunters. If the antlerless season and the urban regulations do not significantly impact the harvest totals, why curtail them to seek to improve the population levels. Archery season is 4 months long, and a bow hunter may fill an unlimited number of antlerless tags. No proposal has been made to address the question of falling deer populations that significantly impairs the opportunity afforded archery hunters. Apparently the privileges afforded archery hunters are sacrosanct. One group of hunters should not be favored over another, if changes are called for, they need to be made across the board. It seems more reasonable to me to continue to try to influence the deer population by continuing to limit the number of antlerless permits issued based upon regional or county populations

I do not like the reduction of days for the antlerless portion. Especially not during the firearms portion. That will make too many restrictions for hunters. If you want to continue participation in deer hunting. I think this restriction is too severe. Hunters will not bother to hunt if they cannot hunt antlerless during firearms, especially with the antler restriction.

First I would like to address the issue of legalizing crossbow hunting during the regular Archery Deer Season in 2016-2017. The first point I would like to make regarding this proposal is that doing so will no doubt increase the number of hunters in the woods during the Archery Season thus it will increase the harvested number of deer. Not only will this increase the harvested number of antlerless deer, it will also increase the harvested number of antlered deer during the Archery Season. This brings me to my second point regarding the legalization of crossbows during Archery Season, that is that Archery Season is just that, for archery hunters. Allowing the

use of crossbows during Archery Season takes away from the sport and the tradition that traditional hand-drawn bowhunters enjoy and take pride in. In my opinion, crossbows should only be allowed for use during Archery Season if a person has a medical reason or disability preventing them from using a hand-drawn bow as well as medical documentation that states this from a medical doctor. Next I would like to address the issue of limiting the harvest of one antlered deer during Archery Season during the 2016-2017 Deer Season. I do not support this proposal. It is clear that this decision is being made in order to mitigate the increased harvest of deer, both antlered and antlerless, that results from allowing crossbows to be used during Archery Season without restriction. As the current laws stand a hunter can kill 2 antlered deer total between archery season and firearms season. The 2016-2017 proposal would not change the ability of a hunter to harvest two antlered deer, it just restricts an individual from harvesting their second antlered deer during the second portion of archery season (post-firearms season) if they were unsuccessful during the regular firearms or primitive firearms season for the current laws that allow two bucks to be harvested between archery and firearms seasons. What exactly is the point of this? It is clear that the only reason to do this is to accommodate for crossbows during archery season, which is clearly the wrong solution. If this is indeed the perspective the Missouri Department of Conservation is taking to mitigate the deer harvest that results from crossbows and archery, then I would very much like to hear a biologist's perspective on the difference in harvest rate of antlered deer pre-firearms season and post-firearms season by archery hunters. The point I am trying to make is that considering the deer activity post-firearms season that results from post-rut activity, hunting pressure and general seasonal conditions that chances of an archery hunter having success on antlered deer is generally less during the post-firearms season period than pre-firearms season. Bottom line, limiting archery hunters to one buck is not going to significantly increase the quality of antlered deer. However, rest assured that by allowing any hunter to use a crossbow during Archery Season and the harvest rates will increase and the quality of antlered deer will suffer.

I think it is a good idea. I am not a deer hunter and the extended deer hunting season makes it hard for others that enjoy recreation in the woods. I do not like to go out hiking or riding my horse when there are firearm hunters in the woods, even on my own property. We have 160 acres in St. Charles County.

I say leave the regulations like they are! If it ain't broke, don't fix it.

I support the proposed changes.

- Maintaining the current timing of the November portion but reducing the length from 11 days to nine days, I have no problem with this.
- Expanding the late youth firearms weekend from two days to three days and having it begin the Friday after Thanksgiving instead of early January, I have no problem with this.
- Reducing the length of the antlerless firearms portion from 12 days to three days and beginning it on the first Friday in December, I support reducing the time but reducing it from 12 days to 3 is too much of a reduction. I support reducing it to 7 days.
- Eliminating the urban zones portion. I have no opinion on this. For the fall archery deer and turkey season, MDC proposes:
- Allowing crossbows as a legal method, and I strongly support

this. It would allow more people to enjoy hunting. • Reducing the limit of antlered deer during the archery season from two to one, I support this. I do feel the number of doe tags for archery should not be limited. MDC also proposes simplifying conservation area regulations and also wants public comment on permit fees for nonresidents regarding a possible increase, decrease, or no change in price. I am a landowner.

I am for all the changes except crossbow hunting. The most significant being the current and future additional opportunities for youth hunters to harvest a deer. By adding a day to youth season, and reducing the number of days in doe season we should see more youth harvested deer in the upcoming years than ever before. To me, that is what it is really all about. As for the crossbows. Where do I begin. Frankly, I find crossbows a unnecessary addition to the hunting season. At the moment, the other changes reflect a long term strategy for continuing to harvest more deer now and into the future. Crossbows will not increase or decrease the amount of deer killed, it will simply change the method. The only downside I see for stopping the inclusion of crossbows is turning away any potential hunters who would only hunt if the opportunity to take a deer with a crossbow arose. I find crossbows to be dangerous. I own one, and feel I can operate it safely and accurately. However, I feel shooting my compound bow or rifle is a far safer option. This year there were a few hunting related fatalities and serious injuries. Why include an additional element of danger into the mix? I hear countless horror stories from people who have hunted with a crossbow. Walking in and out of the stand, crossing fences, and even driving all while the bow is cocked and a bolt loaded. Once the crossbow is loaded most find it damaging to fire the bow without the bolt, or "dry firing". Most crossbows are difficult to release tension from, especially while you are 12 feet or more in the air. While it is not a purposed change, I would like to see a decrease in the amount for out of state permits. I have countless friends and relatives who travel to Missouri from out of state to hunt. The financial expense adds on year after, while they continue to fail to harvest game. These out of state hunters often do not hunt in the state as long as there in state friends and family. Since the MDC is funded by a state sales tax, which these out of state hunters pay, I see it only fair to charge them a fee closer in line with Missouri hunters. Preferably no more than double the cost of Missouri residents. Another change not mentioned that I would support, is the ban of all "game" kept as livestock. These high fenced areas create unnatural numbers of deer in a specific area and are becoming breeding grounds for catastrophic disease. Please take the required steps to get this disease issue under control. Thank you for continuing to do all that you do for Deer Management in Missouri.

As a past deer hunter I agree with all the proposed changes shown above.

As an avid deer hunter in favor of increased deer population, here is how I'd vote on the possible rule changes: In favor of: reducing firearms season to 9 days, changing youth hunt to the weekend after thanksgiving, eliminating urban zone season, and reducing antlerless portion to just 3 days and changing dates to December. I oppose: reducing antlered archery tags to one buck. Indifferent about crossbows. Other suggestions would be to reduce firearm antlerless to just 1 and reduce archery antlerless tags to just 1 or two. Also implementing the four point antler restriction statewide I think would help the increasing numbers of mature bucks.

I'm a bowhunter. I think you should leave the crossbow regulations the way they are. Anyone can shoot a deer with a crossbow. By leaving it the way it is, you could leave the number of bucks for bowhunters at 2. I feel like you're penalizing bowhunters to let a bunch of people kill deer with crossbows who would not normally be in the woods until gun season. The bowhunters I know spend many hours honing their skills in order to be successful. In my opinion, you are going to ruin archery hunting if you allow crossbows to use the same rules as true archers. If you were to give crossbows their own season with a timeframe along the lines of firearms or black powder season it might not be as bad but I still think you should keep the crossbow regulations the way they are.

I believe these changes are needed to increase the deer herd. There has been a sharp decline in our area. Thanks.

I think crossbows should be legal during bow season. It would allow more into the sport. I also think one buck during archery is a good idea. Changing youth a good idea.

I am for eliminating the urban deer hunt. I would like to see them keep the season at 11 days and still allow two bucks for archery hunters. I am in favor of legalizing crossbows and shortening the doe season. I would like to see them keep the second youth season as is. I believe the deer are still to skittish soon after rifle season. I don't think bow hunters have much of an impact on buck harvest. For the most part I believe MDC is doing a good job managing the deer herd. We have a good thing going and although some change may be necessary I caution on making too drastic of a change. I have noticed a decline in deer numbers over the past several years. Reducing hunters days afield is not a good idea although the doe season is probably excessive. I believe they should allow the urban areas to be managed more on a local level based on need.

I support the proposed regulations changes in their totality as written. We need to have faith that these decisions will benefit our future generations. We need only look at the past positive achievements to recognize MDC's commitment to the stewardship to our deer populations; these decisions are not made lightly but in the best interest of all Missourians.

1. First let me say that what does season length have to do with deer harvest numbers. It's all about (the most opportunity) being in woods with family and friends. I would think that MDC would want everyone that purchases a tag to have the most opportunity to fill their tag. With less deer wouldn't it stand to reason that it may take more time to fill that tag. If everyone in the state had one tag to fill, season length (one week or three) the number of harvest would still be one deer per person. 2. Are there plans to shorten archery season as well? I believe archery hunters are what is driving these changes. They already have 4 months of season. MDC has backed opening gun season a week up for them so we miss the prime rut. Old men and kids have a hard time archery hunting. That said including crossbow is a good idea. 3. Non resident permits are priced ok for non-family out of state. MDC could propose out of state children of residents get a break on price. Our family gets together over the xmas holiday week for muzzleloader season and it gets costly fast. E permits would not be an option in this case as ID verification would be required. 4. No mention as to muzzleloader season or length. Could MDC research a late muzzleloader

season in January. 5. Summery a. 9 vs 11 vote NO, b. move late season youth up vote YES, c. 3 day doe season vote NO, d. everything else seems ok.

I love all the season length changes and am glad to be working on deer herd. I am a full time taxidermist so I hear from a lot of hunters. Being a taxidermist I don't gun hunt because that when I make money. I love cutting it down to 2 buck tags. However could you do 2 bucks only one of which can be taken with a gun that way if a guy wants to kill 2 with a bow and none with a gun he can. This is same format as Illinois and Iowa landowners. Thanks for the time and opportunity to voice my opinion

Crossbow for second half of bow season (youth all season) older hunters can get permit. Reduce urban area rather than eliminate it. Toughest issue is hunter access. Reduce number of doe tags rather than season length. Everything else ok.

I concur with reducing the Nov. Any deer portion to 9 days as long as it includes 2 weekends. Also concur with changing the late season youth season. I disagree with reducing the antlerless season to just 3 days since I am an antlerless deer hunter, but would be happy with 2 weekend antlerless seasons besides the Nov. any deer portion. If by urban you mean city leave them alone unless you plan on trapping and moving the deer. I concur with the Archery season changes. I own my land but disagree with the CA changes since some firearms hunters need a place to hunt. Non-resident permits (deer, small game) reduce cost to about half for non-resident land owners with 25+ connected acres hunting their own land. I heard about this from a MDC e-mail notification. Also I believe that we need to do away with the 4 point on 1 beam antlered restriction because it keeps inferior bucks with small antlerless in the gene pool. I have hunted several counties in MO and have seen some areas with numerous older deer that have never met the antlered restriction so are not harvested but the superior antlered deer are getting harvested. Again I normally let bucks go even the two 10 to 12 pointers I have been watching for last 2 seasons that I have had within 25 yards of my stands many times. Keep up the good work.

I agree with the proposals except the three day antlerless because it might make some hunters think why bother in bad weather.

The non-resident fee is too high as a family we own over 200 acres of land in Missouri. We pay the same property tax as a resident. We spend our weekends on our land making it a better place to hunt and protect the wildlife on our land just like a resident and own more land than is required to get a free tag if we lived in the state of Missouri which I can't do because of my job. At the very least bring back the non-resident land owner tag.

Reducing the final Mon and Tues of gun season can't make much of a difference, I suspect a small percentage of the total kill are taken on the last two days. However, it does reduce the opportunities afield and increases the concentration of hunters. Disagree with the proposed change. If we want mature bucks, need regs to stop shooting the small ones (except for youth) or push firearm season past the peak rut. Agree with expanding the youth portion to three days; however, I have seen good success with the January youth season over food plots. Deer around Thanksgiving tend to be nocturnal due to firearm season pressure. Agree to limit antlerless season. My recommendation is to eliminate it. I hunt both northern and southern MO and have

seen the does get hammered up north over the past decade, populations are well below the carrying capacity. Also you have introduced antlerless tags in some southern counties, such as Cape Girardeau and it does not have a sufficient widespread population to support it. Does got hammered around our family farm this year and the area is a long way from carrying capacity. Suggest going back to a limited number of doe tags/county like in years past. Unrestricted doe harvest is only needed in overpopulated areas and for a very short term, we went way too long. Agree if the urban zones aren't effective, eliminate them. Not sure how allowing crossbows hold attracts and holds more bowhunters? This is the latest fad among states and it appears that Mo is just jumping on that bandwagon without any scientific reasoning. It looks like from your own statistics there are more bowhunters afield and they are more effective. Modern compounds are not difficult to shoot. I have a 19 year old daughter that shoots a 38 lbs. compound that will effectively take deer to 25 yds. Why do we need 150 lbs. crossbows; save them for alternative weapons season? Archery season buck limit from 2 to 1. How many bowhunters take 2 bucks annually? My guess is a very small percentage (in fact I believe you published that data at one point) Again if you want to improve buck age structure there needs to be antler restrictions. The antler restrictions up north have helped where I hunt, maybe not to the degree we all hoped but it has definitely slowed down the killing of 1.5 year olds. Again this proposed regulation seems to have little data to support that it will have any measurable impact.

I learned about all this from your e-mail. I do not think that crossbows should be allowed for archery season, they already have a season its alternative methods. Then you don't have to reduce the number of bucks by bowhunters. There aren't that many bow hunters that kill two bucks because you have to wait until after firearms season to use the second tag anyway. Most bowhunters don't kill any deer and if they do its probably antlerless. Only hardcore trophy hunters are out there with a bow after all those guns turn the deer nocturnal. I love bowhunting and if I kill a buck early then I would have to quit hunting the rest of the season. I have never killed two bucks with a bow in the same season but I hunt until the last day of the season trying. Don't take away my two buck limit, it wouldn't change the number of bucks killed anyway.

Don't change timing of rifle season, change to 9 days, ok. Let everyone use crossbows, ok. One buck with bow, one buck with rifle, ok. Now, here are other things you NEED to implement - change youth season to ANTLERLESS ONLY! This has been a JOKE since it started! I'm all for letting kids hunt, BUT IT IS ONLY A TROPHY BUCK HUNT FOR THE FATHERS! Let the kids shoot does! If the child wants to shoot a buck, then they can hunt in the REGULAR SEASON like everyone else! Most every hunter agrees it is nothing but a POACHERS DELITE for dads and bucks! Make it a draw for out of state hunters. Too easy and too cheap for out of staters to hunt. Change the baiting law! This is the most ridiculous rule ever! A farmer, in northern Missouri, with a corn field, can mow it down the day before season, SCATTERING CORN ALL OVER THE GROUND, and it is PERFECTLY LEGAL! But anywhere you don't have corn, you're a CRIMINAL if you dump a pile of corn out of a sack! There is absolutely NO difference in the two situations – corn is on the ground for wildlife to eat! But folks that don't live in farm country are criminals and farmers up north are not, ridiculous! Missouri needs to

join most other states and allow baiting! Make WHOLE state 4 point on one side! I was the biggest opponent of the 4pt rule when it first came out but, after hunting the last few years up north, it has definitely IMPROVED the buck size! We need it down south now!

I grew up hunting and fishing every chance I got. My grandfather and step father drilled the right way to hunt and fish while also preserving those resources into everything I do. As a father now I hope I can instill those values into my son. I understand why wanting to shorten the November season would benefit our future generations as well as the deer population, but as I am an active duty service member in the USAF I find it difficult to make it home for the short season already. I personally think that instead of shortening the season there could be a way of putting more restrictions or only hunting in special over populated zones but by doing that you can't knowingly put thousands of hunters in a small area to hunt and not expect a rise in accidental shootings. I do like the extending of youth season to 3 days vs 2. When I was younger and hunted during this season it was harder to get a family member to take me out as they were saving their vacation days for their hunting season. Though I have only bow hunted once I do like the restriction of one buck. I never understood why bow hunters could bag two bucks.

I put that it is about right for an out of state hunter to pay 225 for a deer tag but there needs to be a break for people who are land owners paying taxes to the state on their land. It's not right to make them pay the same amount as someone who doesn't own land in Missouri.

I strongly oppose the use of crossbows during archery season. Crossbow hunters already have firearms and alternative methods season. Crossbows are not archery. They require nowhere near the skill of archery and remove most of the challenge. Probably no reduction in antlered harvest during archery season would be needed if crossbows continue to be prohibited. People with disabilities can get a waiver so there is no need for a general crossbow allowance to allow aged bow hunters to continue hunting. Also, some of the best archers I have met are in their 60s. I also oppose any extension to the youth season. Many deer harvested during youth season are probably shot by poaching parents anyway. There is no effective way to regulate this illegal activity with conservation agents spread thinly over such large geographic areas. Why give the poachers any more opportunities?

As a bow hunter I strongly disagree with the use of crossbows during the archery season. I understand that youth, older and disabled hunters are not physically able to hunt with standard archery equipment. So I suggest that crossbows should only be used by youth under the age of 15, adults over the age of 65, or persons with a physical handicap with the proper paperwork from a doctor, have the privilege to hunt with a crossbow. I work very hard to harvest the deer that I harvest with archery equipment, allowing other able bodied hunters to hunt with equipment that is easier to shoot, is not bow hunting. I also strongly disagree with the youth seasons in general and how they are managed. What does the youth season teach our kids? That they are special enough to not have to follow the rules everyone else does? This is the problem with today's youth, they are over privileged, in a "everybody gets a trophy" world. Why should they not have to wait and take a buck with 4 points on one side? How does this teach our children about managing deer herds and the age of the deer they have taken? I have kids and I love them

with all of my being, but I can't see how letting them hunt a couple weeks before everyone else is beneficial to anybody. The excuse of getting them involved is thrown around a lot, are we as parents getting so greedy and lazy that we can't take our kids out during the regular seasons? Not this guy, my kids will be taught how to respect and understand our deer, and not just go into the woods two weeks before the season opener and shoot brown and walking. The remaining proposed changes that I have not mentioned all seem to be good ideas. This past season bucks rutted harder than I've seen in 20+ years of hunting in Missouri, I believe in many areas the deer population is balanced and where it should be. There are some that are above or below ideal, but I believe our state deer herd is healthy and growing. These proposed changes can help keep the heard numbers where they should be, but it is up to us hunters to know where our deer herd numbers stand and hunt accordingly. I wish that the MDC could find a way to educate more hunters about proper deer management. All in all the MDC does an excellent job at what they do, and I hope that with the efforts of the MDC and fellow hunters, that my kids can grow up hunting deer as I have.

I like the 11 day season. I don't like changing the first youth season. It will be after the regular gun season. Deer will be more spooky, not as many of them, and it is more likely to be colder. It is a lot easier to hunt with children when it is more apt to be warmer and comfortable. The more comfortable it will be the better experience they will have and more likely they will become hunters when they are older and can handle the colder temps. I really have no comment on the antlerless season or urban season I do not partake in either of them. I do like the idea of crossbows. I think it would be great to go to the woods and kill with a crossbow. If your scared of to many deer being taken early because of crossbows make a season for them for a couple of weeks and see what kind of effect it has. I do however extremely oppose the idea of only one archery buck Missouri has a great deer herd and as a hunter and land owner I don't want to be taken out of field because I killed one buck. It is a lot harder to kill a buck after firearms season any way. I feel having that second tag in your pocket gets more people out in the woods and more apt to spend money and that is honestly good for the hunting industry, MDC, and the economy. Most of all I want to be able to kill that second buck of the with a bow. I've archery hunted for about 17 years now starting at the age of 14 and I've yet to kill two archery deer in a year. PLEASE don't take that from me. I recently bought three hundred acres in southwest Missouri just to hunt on. With only one archery tag I don't feel that I can honestly manage my buck herd well enough with only one antlered tag. Please do not take that away from me. I don't really care about the other changes. This is the only one I really don't want to happen. Thanks for reading

Maintain the timing of the November portion. Leave the same length Allow crossbows as legal method for deer and turkey. Leave the antlered deer during archery season at 2 . I think non-resident deer permits should be 400 dollars like most other states.

The proposed crossbow use during archery season is a terrible idea! As stated in your article "deer numbers statewide are at or below desired levels" Allowing crossbows to be used for the four month archery season will decimate the herd to negate any gain by shorting firearms season

and the antlerless portion, etc. Do we want to return to 1930 when there were fewer than 400 deer in the state? This decision should not be left up to the general public. It should be left up to people such as myself and the MDC who have the best interest of the deer at heart! Not those who feel the need to always fill a tag at any cost! Remember it was the general public who made animals such as elk, bear, wolves, and mountain lions extinct in our state! Please do the responsible thing and not allow crossbows during the archery season unless handicapped or elderly! This is the only logical answer or our herd will be in serious jeopardy! Thank You

I think the timing & length of the November hunt should be left alone. The youth portion should be expanded, the crossbow allowed & the number of antlered deer allowed left as it is.

I think the November firearm season is already too short as it is, I can't believe you'd even think of making it shorter, if anything it should be made longer.

Don't care about the season length, one buck with a bow sounds great, but Donaldson Point Conservation Area is in desperate need of changes, I've seen people dragging does out of public woods that is supposed to be buck only, taking gates down and driving trucks in walk-in access only areas. I wish we either go shotgun or muzzloader only or even antler restriction, I think the cost of nonresident tags need to match Illinois. I spent 500\$ and got to shoot 1 buck they spend half that and shoot 2.

I do not feel that limiting bow hunters to one antlered deer is justified. Also if the youth portion of the firearms season, of which I am a big fan of, is to be expanded it should be moved well away from the rut. There is plenty of pressure on the deer herd during the rut as it is.

As an avid deer hunter of over the past 35 years of all methods. I agree with most of the proposed changes as I have certainly experienced a decline in deer herd that past 3-5 years. I am not sure about extending the youth season as this is counterproductive to what the goal is of increasing or maintaining a healthy herd number. Allowing cross bows to all hunters will definitely enhance the number of hunters who currently don't "trust" themselves with a compound or re-curve bow and I see this as a positive for the sport.

When is Missouri going to get it right? Look at all the top producing B&C states. Push the gun season out of the rut to the first week of Dec. or at least the last week of Nov. Limit the doe tags to 1 with a firearm. Push the first youth back with the reg gun season to the weekend before and leave the second youth in Jan. As far as allowing crossbows during archery season, well that's just a horrible horrible idea that shouldn't even be considered. You do that and continue to have a gun season during the rut we will all watch our genetics and population go downhill fast. If you have a disability now that's a different story. If you push gun season back allow archery hunters to use both buck tags before gun season. That should compensate for pushing the gun season back and controlling the population but not near as drastic as having a gun season in Nov. A lot less 1 1/2 and 2 1/2 year old bucks would be killed which will make for a lot better herd for future seasons. It should be about the deer not us, not money. Healthier herd and bigger bucks! You start producing record book deer year after year like Iowa, Kansas, Illinois and you will see more money coming in from out of state hunters. Whatever a state charges us to hunt that's what we should charge them end of story. Above all else, push the gun season out of the rut!

As the deer population in our area is not what it was a few years ago, I support these proposed changes. I certainly like the use of the crossbow in archery season. I have lost several deer in the past due to a bad shot with my bow and the fact that, at my age, it is getting more difficult to pull a bow.

I thank that it should be legal to hunt with a crossbow but everything else leave alone and not changed

In favor of maintaining time of firearms and reducing to 9 days. Absolutely IN FAVOR of allowing crossbows in archery. I think this would really increase youth/women participation in this hunting season. I'm ok with reducing to 1 buck in bow season. On a side note, just a thought, change individual deer permits to 1 antlered point restriction deer, 1 antlered deer no point restriction, 2 antlerless deer for a total of 4 deer, how you choose take them is your business.

I agree with all changes except for those in the archery season. If you allow crossbows, soon everyone will be using them and will have an unfair advantage over bow hunters. With today's technology crossbows are almost equal to a rifle. Also if you allow only one antlered deer in archery season, people who hunt mainly for big bucks will be cheated out of a lot of hunting time once they have taken a buck. Please don't make these two changes.

The youth hunt is fine. It does not need to be expanded. Failure to get a deer is part of the learning process. Plus a lot of these kids parents are shooting the deer not the kids. Crossbows for older hunters and handicapped hunters are fine but younger people need to use normal bows to hunt. If you guys think deer numbers are low, then I believe you. If you think reducing bow hunting from 2 to one antlered deer is good, go ahead. 12 days to 3 days on the antlerless portion sounds pretty dramatic but, again, if your science says that needs to be so be it.

I hope changes actually happen this time. After all the surveys and feedback from hunters during 2014, yet zero was changed. WASTE OF TIME AND MONEY. Starting to feel like lip service. Keeping the rifle season in November and reducing the season to nine days will do NOTHING to increase mature bucks. Majority of the harvest is opening weekend and your table clearly show this. The season need to be moved to after Thanksgiving. I do support the 3 day antlerless season vs what is currently in place. It actually needs to be eliminated entirely. The deer numbers are down and there is plenty of opportunity to harvest does during the archery and rifle season on top of the alternative season. I do not support the youth late deer season going to 3 days in late November. NO CROSSBOWS DURING ARCHERY SEASON. If it is approved then the statewide buck limit needs to be reduced to 1 buck a year regardless of method used. REPEATING NO CROSSBOWS. If a hunter wants to use a crossgun then they have every opportunity to use it during the rifle season. Draw locks are illegal on bows now, what's the difference?! Nonresident prices are too low. I am surrounded on three sides by nonresidents. Want to keep the price the same, go to a draw to reduce nonresidents leasing up land due to guaranteed tags! Do the game wardens ever get a break to actually hunt? The deer are being hunted from 9-15 until 1-15. Shorten the deer season to a bow and one rifle and be done with it. The current structure creates to many "poaching" issues by opportunity. I am impressed with

habitat improvement work done on public land, just too bad it is over hunted and there are no deer to actually benefit from the effort. Buck only on public land.

I read your proposed regulation changes and I believe they are good. I think you are in the best position to evaluate the condition of our deer herd and the changes will strengthen our herd for future generations. I'm sure not everyone will be happy with the changes, but I think it is in our best interest as hunters to pull back the throttle a bit. Adding the crossbow to the archery season is fantastic. I'm sure this will upset a few bowhunters, but if they understood crossbow dynamics they would realize the method wouldn't jeopardize their season. Thanks for all you do!

Crossbows is a big YES! I am a bowhunter and getting older. I agree with ALL the other proposals. 9 days is plenty of time, I would like to take my kids out hunting but sitting in freezing weather does not appeal to a lot of new hunters. Property access with 955 privately owned property has and will always be a problem for hunters here in this great state. I had more hunting opportunities in NJ, of all places! You need to loosen up some local land if you want to keep generating the cash that these sports generate or the state and even your job may be in jeopardy due to lack of participation. I am a diehard hunter, my kids (and their friends), not so much. We have to travel an hour for available land to hunt and live two minutes from Busch. Lighten up or loose. You all do a great job! Offer work programs at CA areas with hunting access as a reward I would be your first guy in line to help pick up trash, build blinds etc. one day for each hour and then limit it to 5. This will be a win win for everyone. Consider it and THX, A.

I strongly disagree with allowing crossbows as a legal method during archery season. Crossbows have a fixed stock and are not considered archery therefore they should not be allowed during archery season. I have always disagreed with having the firearms season during the rut. Other neighboring states have the firearms season in December after the rut.

I sent a comment last night and it would be much easier if the MDC would have an online questionnaire that hits on all the topics with standardized questions, like the questions above about age and below about non-resident tags and answers because there is large amount of information given to digest and remember all the points that each person wants to make some or all proposed changes. This would also be much easier for the MDC to compile the information accurately and not having to interpret what a given person might be saying about a topic. One I can hunt in Arkansas with an out of state license that includes deer firearms, archery, spring turkey, chances to be drawn for managed deer, turkey and elk, bear even alligator, It is an all hunting tag for \$300 so I really feel \$225 is a bit stiff for one firearms deer tag. Thanks

I agree with all the changes except for the elimination of the urban zones portion. Not sure if the numbers have been reduced enough to reduce deer fatalities and vehicle incidents. If the urban hunts are eliminated then there is no control around the urban areas.

I am in favor of all regulation changes except reducing the archery antlered deer limit to 1. I have bowhunted a LOT, and it is very rare for someone to get both bucks, especially with the antler restrictions, so I don't see what this even accomplishes. A lot of my late season hunts are spent

trying to fill my 2nd buck tag. If I didn't have that tag, I would not spend as much time outdoors and that would be terrible.

I am opposed to reducing the number of days for the regular season from 13 to 11. I am opposed to increasing the number of days for youth hunting. I have taken youth hunting for the last 15 years. Unfortunately, in north Missouri, there are many adults who use this time illegally. They harvest mature bucks and say that it was the youth that had the tag that shot the deer. Being in education for more than 20 years, I have had multiple young youth through the years say how dad "helped" them shoot their deer and then went on to describe how they really didn't shoot it. I feel the youth season is very beneficial to get young hunters started, but if you are looking to decrease hunting opportunities in regular season, urban season, antlerless season, and archery bucks, you are picking winners and losers. Keeping the youth season the same is the only fair way to do this. Also, I do not agree with reducing number of buck tags during archery season. Most archers wait for mature bucks due to the length of the season and only a small percentage ever take 2 bucks. If you are fortunate to have the season of a lifetime when 2 mature bucks give you an opportunity, you should feel fortunate. I have bow hunted for more than a decade, averaging well over 30 days in the field with a bow, and have yet to harvest 2 bucks in a season. I am in support of reducing the number of antlerless days or eliminating them all together for a couple of seasons.

I would like to see deer managed for trophy bucks (4.5 years or more). I enjoy the long seasons but want what's best for the herd. I would like to do away with the second youth season all together. Keep the crossbow rules the same. Maybe replace the second youth season with a crossbow season. Thanks J.

I support all of the changes under consideration, except the allowance of crossbows. At a time when the agency claims to seek to reduce harvest, crossbows will significantly increase harvest. Perhaps consider allowing them in the late archery season? [after November firearms] This would allow the agency to track whether the inclusion affects participation while still allowing true archers a time for themselves in the woods. If crossbows are allowed in any regime, I strongly recommend a survey at the time of archery tag purchase asking if the hunter intends to use a crossbow [for the first 2-3 years]. This will not only allow the agency to gauge effectiveness of the change, but educate purchasers of what will be a big change.

I like the proposed changes. I know as a crossbow permit holder, I like the change I had to wait an extra three years for my shoulder to get bad enough for my doctor to sign my paper work. Plus the burden of getting the paperwork and paying a copy to see a doctor. When other states already allows crossbows. Thanks and keep up the great work MDC.

1.] Crossbows are fine but allow their use only in rifle season, because they are basically a close range rifle. 2.]Doe season for 3 days eliminates my chance to hunt as I work Thursday through Sunday and have used my vacation time by the time the 3 day season would open. I have always hunted deer and in a normal doe season I would typically hunt 3 of the 11 day season. A 4 day season works but starting on Saturday and ending Tuesday. 3.] Leave the 2 bucks for archery hunters as it is. I have been hunting in Missouri since 1983 and have seldom, if ever, filled both

any deer tags on bucks. Under the proposed change after I shoot 1 buck I would continue bow hunting until the season ends which would just increase the number of does harvested. I feel like any bow hunter would do the same. If we need a reduced buck harvest move rifle season opener to the end of November. 4.] 9 day firearms season? Are 2 less days during the week going to make much of impact on total harvest.

Maintain current November portion as is or make it earlier and do not shorten. I love bow season it is my passion but lengthen the youth portion to 9 days and shorten bow season do not reduce the number of antlered deer in bow season. Leave as is but remove restriction as to one before November gun portion and one after but allow anytime during bow season. Allow crossbows during archery season. Do not reduce the number of days during the antlerless gun season leave as is. Conservation area regulations I would leave as is.

•Allow crossbows as a legal method during the archery deer and turkey season. Allow them now for the 2015 -2016 deer season.

1. I think the current 11 day firearm season is good, because I know several people that will take off work the week of Thanksgiving to hunt, but need to work during the first week. 2. I don't like the idea of moving the late youth season, the first season already is in prime bow hunting, so I don't like taking more prime bow hunting time away. 3. I agree with reducing or eliminating the antlerless season. 4. I also agree with eliminating the urban season. 5. Reducing the archery buck limit to one is a great idea and will only help the quality of the deer herd. 6. Allowing crossbows during archery season is a good idea, it will help some people I know to be able to go bow hunting.

1. Move main rifle season two later and maintain 2 week duration. 2. Expand both youth seasons to 3 days; i.e. Sat, Sun, Mon. 3. Reduce antlerless season to 3 days is ok but start on Sat not Fri. 4. Yes, eliminate Urban zones. 5. Yes allow crossbows as legal. 6. Yes on reducing limit to 1 on antlerless archery season. 7. Yes on simplification of conservation area regulations.

I do not always have weekends off and when I do the public areas are crowded. I have killed my deer on one of the last two days several times. As far as a 1 buck archery limit, that would take away most people's ability to put down a wounded buck or take a "management" buck. I believe this would also shift more pressure onto does. I agree with the other proposed regulations.

Thanks for asking for input from the public.

The regulation changes are fine except I think each hunter should be allowed only one buck. Not one with a bow and one with a gun.

Keep current November portion timing and length. Reduce doe harvest in those units where numbers need to increase. Shorting the doe season to 3 days would help accomplish this. The Friday first Sunday in December would be a good thing. If the urban hunt is not working then eliminate it. I support the use of crossbows during the fall archery season. I do not think reducing the buck harvest to one would be a good idea because a large portion of hunters will stop hunting if bucks are off limits. I know I would for fear that monster would show up and I would not be able to shoot. Simplifying regulations is always a good thing. I already sent a comment about nonresident permits.

In Ste. Genevieve County the deer population has decreased significantly due in large part to the over killing of our doe population. Shortening the firearms portion by two days will have little impact on the doe kill here. Deer drives will only increase on the second weekend. In my judgement, and I make it a point to communicate with as many hunters in this county as possible, the best way to increase the herd here is to scale back the doe harvest at least for a few years. Eliminating the any deer permit in favor of an antlered only permit would be a good start. That would at least stop the two doe kill that is common here now. The unlimited doe kill for bow hunters is a large part of the problem because so many bow hunters simply do not check their deer. Crossbows are only going to make it easier for this kind of killing to continue. The prevailing attitude toward MDC is beginning to take an undesirable direction throughout our county, and I find that very concerning. The general school of thought that is growing in our county is that MDC has out grown its ability to manage by way of public input in favor of special interest groups, and will only take action when things have reached crisis levels. I certainly am trying to hang on to the hope that this opinion is somehow in error. I suppose the proof will be in the pudding. When I was a boy there was no youth season. My Pop took my brother and I hunting with his buddies blessings and we hunted under the same rules as they did. If we have a youth season, fine, but when there is a four point rule it should apply for the youth portion also. We need to create good responsible hunters and rules that require some discipline contribute to that. If not, we just raise another batch of killers of game. Anyway, I've had my say. Go easy on the does.

Firearms Season Changes--Maintain the current timing of the November portion and reduce the length to 9-days. No, if this is to assist in increasing population, then reduce number of deer permits allowed during a season versus limiting the timeframe. Like most folks, I stay pretty with work and family so I'm often times limited on when I can get out to the woods. Limiting the timeframe would make that even harder. --Expand the late youth portion to 3-days beginning the first Friday after Thanksgiving. Agreed, this might also coincidentally give some the opportunity to take their kids hunting rather than being subjected to Black Friday shopping. --Reduce the length of the antlerless portion to 3-days and begin on the first Friday in December. No, again as stated earlier, if this is to assist in increasing population, then reduce number of deer permits allowed during a season versus limiting the timeframe. Like most folks, I stay pretty with work and family so I'm often times limited on when I can get out to the woods. Limiting the timeframe would make that even harder. --Eliminate the urban zones portion. No, again limit the permits not the seasons. Archery Season Changes--Allow crossbows as a legal method during the archery deer and turkey season. Absolutely not. Continue the practice of allowing doctor waivers for handicapped or senior citizens. If the mindset is to increase population then why give able bodied folks the advantage of using a crossbow? If general population wants to use a crossbow during main firearms portion then that's fine. --Reduce the limit of antlered deer during the archery season to 1. That's okay. Conservation Area Regulations--Simplify conservation area regulations by limiting methods and use of firearms and archery antlerless permits. Agreed.

I think the changes are warranted and necessary. We have an "over harvest" problem, and many of the proposed regulations should cure that issue if they are enforced. I really appreciate the MDC, and I think what you're doing is important and necessary. Please do not bend to the outfitters, commercial hunters and those that want to overharvest our valuable natural resource. I would also ask that you continue to take a scientific approach to CWD and EHD. Please do not take a page out the Illinois or Wisconsin playbook by establishing eradication zones where deer will no longer be found. There has to be a better way to deal with the issue.

I agree with the proposed changes. In my area deer numbers are down. Being an older hunter I would like to see crossbows allowed as an accepted archery method.

I think all is fine except that each hunter should be allowed only 1 buck a year not one for archery and one for firearms

I am concerned over the proposed suggestion to reduce the number of antlered deer taken with archery. According to your numbers, even now archery is only 20% of the harvest. Firearms is 79%. I am not sure how limiting the archery antlered harvest is going to make that much of a change when a VERY small number of archery hunters actually harvest two antlered deer. The change needs to be made to the firearms portion and MOVE IT BACK one week or even move it two weeks back to avoid Thanksgiving since that seemed to be a large complaint of moving it. By moving the firearm portion back then that in itself will reduce the number of antlered deer harvested. With the drop in numbers I am honestly asking myself why we even have an antlerless portion separately anymore, put that in with the regular firearm season. Let's let the largest number of does actually get to breed, your numbers jumped to what 75% if the firearms portion was moved back? That seems like an easy decision. Yes I understand that firearm out number archery hunters by a VERY large number so the voice is larger for the firearms but please do not restrict the archery hunters, I just don't see how that helps your cause. The changes need to be made where they will actually have an impact and that is with the timing of the firearm season. You could set up crossbows, if this has any effect on the archery restriction, to be a separate season the same time as muzzleloader? It is called Alternative Method season I believe? There are other options for changes to the Archery season. Now we have the opportunity to kill two antlered deer. But only ONE before firearm season. What if you made the first tag ONLY good for the time before rifle season, then the second tag would be for ONLY after firearm season. Two bucks could be taken but only one before and one after, eliminating the possibility of taking two bucks after firearms season? You could even separate the tags as some archers do not hunt after firearm season, so they could only buy one tag, BUT have the opportunity to purchase the second tag for AFTER firearm season if they wanted to. Tag 1 - Sept 15 thru open day firearm. Tag 2 day after last day of firearm thru January 15th. Can purchase one or both? PLEASE do not limit the number of antlered deer archery hunters can harvest. A VERY small percentage of archery hunters actually kill two antlered deer with archery equipment, if limited then that will limit the time we have in nature and hunting. Feel free to email me with any questions on my suggestions.

I am a volunteer Hunter Ed instructor and have been an avid deer/turkey hunter for the past 40 years. The last two years, I have personally watched the number of deer around my home and where I hunt decline. I think that the proposed changes will help raise and increase the population of the deer herd in Mo. The drought two years ago, had a MAJOR impact on the number of deer in my area. I think lowering the number of days to hunt will certainly benefit the overall population of the deer herd. Personally, I would also like to see the antler restrictions imposed statewide. I used to hunt in Central Mo. where the antler restrictions were implemented several years ago. What a difference that regulation made in the quality/size of the bucks harvested there in about 3 years! I also deer hunt in the State of Arkansas every year, and Ark. has a state wide antler restriction that works well there. I also feel that the cost of a non-resident deer permit is too high. I like the options given by Arkansas Game and Fish. You can purchase a 3 day deer hunting permit in Arkansas for \$100, 5 day for \$150 or for \$300 you can purchase an entire deer hunting season permit. The 3 day permit allows you to harvest 2 deer, the 5 day tag allows you to harvest 3 deer and the \$300 permit allows you to harvest up to 6 deer. That permit also includes 2 Spring turkey tags. Perhaps Mo. should consider the 3, or 5 day hunting permits. I hunt with a relative who resides in Ark. and he would love to come to Mo. and hunt deer, but feels the non-resident tags are way too expensive.

I have no problem with shortening the rifle season but why not the archery season as well they have four months and are not being asked to give up any of their season? As far as the youth portion, three days in November is better than two days in January but why not add a few days to the early youth portion and make it earlier yet? As far as crossbows and out of state tags, I really have no opinion one way or the other. Thanks for listening, J.H.

Highly disappointed that MDC would not push the November firearms season back at least one week. I think it's the number one tool to grow bigger bucks and allow the old age class bucks to breed the does, improve the age class of our bucks. We have lost a lot of bucks to EHD and the herd is rebuilding in our area, but the rut firearms season kills way too many younger bucks. Yes, I am primarily a bowhunter but do enjoy firearms, but just take a look at our neighboring states and their timing of the firearms season, I hunt in Ks, Iowa, and Illinois and all run their seasons after the peak of the rut.

I'm in favor of reducing firearm season length to 9 days. I also favor reducing antlerless portion to 3 days. The season lasts way to long for those of us that want to pursue other outdoor interests. I do not favor the use of crossbows for everyone and think 1 buck with the bow is sufficient.

I hunted the last 2 days of gun season and there were very few other hunters. Will this actually make a difference. If not, why make the change. I was not able to hunt many of the other days of the season. I prefer not to quail hunt while gun season is on, therefore, if we had a huntable quail population, I would oppose the extension of the youth portion. Urban zone changes do not impact me. Crossbows may as well be allowed, though folks tell me they are as easy as using a gun. I agree with archers being restricted to one antlered deer.

The changes look like good, esp. crossbows during the archery portion. MDC has done a great job managing deer in Missouri. Keep up the good work.

1 buck limit during archery season: I have a concern about this, however; my concern may not be what you think. I am not quite sure I understand the purpose of the 1 buck limit in archery season. It will "possibly" force hunters to pass small bucks in hopes of a bigger one, thus leading to more mature herds. That I am OK with. However, it may also force hunters into shooting more does, which I'm not necessarily in favor of. Currently in southeast Missouri you can shoot as many does as you want with archery tackle. I would like this to be eliminated personally. I know of hunters that shoot 6 or 7 deer a year. I'm just not sure that is a great management technique and I am afraid the 1 buck rules "may" cause more does to be harvested. Just wanted to share. If your thoughts are opposite mine, please shoot me an email to explain the true reasoning behind 1 buck in archery season. Youth season: I LOVE the 2nd youth season moving to Friday after Thanksgiving. Much better idea than January. Quite frankly, it's better than the current Halloween youth seasons we have had the past few years. Thanks, R.M.

In my opinion everything sounds good except for reducing the limit of antlered deer during the archery season to 1. I myself am not strictly a trophy hunter, but in my opinion if you limit antlered deer to one during archery season then the "trophy" hunters will hang it up for the season once they have filled their antlered deer permit. I think most hunters that trophy hunt will harvest does from time to time also. If your goal is to encourage doe harvest then keep the hunters in the woods. I also believe that the number of hunters that do harvest two antlered deer in a season is very low, so I do not think that it will have a great impact on the number of antlered deer harvested.

Conservation area regs: I hunt on private ground near Indian trail conservation area in Dent County. I would LOVE to see this become BOWHUNTING ONLY. Is this a possibility? Who will make that decision? I would love more info on this subject. Thanks, R.

Nonresidents need a draw. OTC rags promote leason of resident lands and reduce my opportunity. NO CROSSBOWS. Move guns season to after Thanksgiving.

NO crossbows.

NO crossbows during the archery season.

Do not allow crossbows.

Crossbows are not archery!

I think that legalizing crossbows for archery will be a mistake. There are many people who currently hunt deer with a rifle who do not bow hunt because it is challenging and they do not want to spend the time and effort for the reward. By allowing a crossbow, you will see many firearms deer hunters buying archery tags and getting into the sport as using a crossbow is much easier than a long bow, recurve or even a compound. You say your goal is to limit deer harvest by making many of the adjustments to the seasons as deer populations are down. By making crossbows legal, you will increase the harvest of deer (AND SELL MORE TAGS). Meanwhile, those of us who have been working hard to take deer with a bow for decades are going to have to

give up our limit of two bucks so you can justify the number of increase kills from crossbow hunting. I do not believe that the department is being honest about your motives to legalize crossbows. It's about selling tags and getting more money. You don't care about the sport OR the deer population. If you did, you would just cut out the doe season for one or two years and limit gun hunters to one deer for one or two years. That would jump the deer population back up and you know it! You are not fooling anyone.

Why are nonresident deer tags so cheap? Need money, increase nonresident tags.

I am surrounded by nonresidents who lease ground at stupid rates and shoot dinks. Go to a draw and raise prices for nonresidents. Keep outfitters from pimping out our deer.

No crossbows.

Too many from other states hunting my old spots.

I am in favor of reducing the November portion to 9 days if it helps to increase the deer population or keep it stable. The question I have is what time would be the early youth season be it is usually the weekend before regular firearms season in Nov. If this change was in effect this year: Youth season 10/31-11-01/ 2015 then youth late season Nov. 28th. Both would be in Nov. In favor of reducing antlerless deer from 12 days to 3 days. Do not understand why there was ever a Urban zone do away with it. I am 100% in favor of allowing a crossbow during archery season for reason you stated and it will keep hunters in state instead of having to go out of state to use crossbow. In favor of reducing antlerless deer taken during archery season.

Too many nonresidents. It's my state, my deer.

Go to draw tags for nonresidents.

Nonresidents need to draw tags and pay more.

I do not hunt horns. I do however only take mature bucks. By moving the season back and out of the rut will dramatically reduce the opportunity for many hunters like myself. In addition being so close to Thanksgiving will reduce my hunting time. Since I do not archery hunt, youth hunt, and only take one deer per year, I have no comment on those proposals.

Not a fan of allowing crossbows during archery season. Today's equipment is so advanced giving considerable edge/opportunity with their use. I do gun hunt and appreciate that opportunity, I grow weary, however, of all the extra gun seasons. Deer are under constant attack and pressure essentially from the first of November thru the end of the year. Anyone wanting to use their bow finds less opportunity as a result of all the guns seasons. As you note, I am seeing steady to declining deer numbers and my expectation is that will continue. If you are concerned about that, move the gun season back a week, like the old days, and have it over Thanksgiving. As you note, biologically that is best for a successful breeding season. Lastly, the antler point restriction is working. Very glad to see that applied and continued.

After reading about the 2016-2017 deer season changes, it looks like your on the right track. The only thing I disagree with totally, is allowing crossbows in the archery season. When a hunter shoulders a stock and squeezes a trigger it's not archery. Any way you look at it. It belongs in the gun season. I'm from Ohio. And you're wrong when you say it doesn't make a difference in the

deer harvest. Just look at the Ohio stats. When you allow crossguns in the archery season you have gun hunters shooting deer in the archery season and it gets crowded. Bowhunting takes hard work and dedication and practice. The idea that everyone should be able to do everything is wrong. I have been bowhunting for 30 years and have seen the change first hand and it's not going in the right direction. Please leave the bowhunting as is. It's quality bowhunting now.

I agree with the November portion being reduced, this has a minimal impact since many people don't even hunt or venture out on the final two days of the season. Absolutely love the youth portion shift to Thanksgiving weekend. I strongly dislike the adding of crossbows to bow season. As a retired veteran I've had the opportunity to hunt in many states, one state Virginia implemented the crossbow change while I was there. When you see deer in the woods with bolts that haven't penetrated and will likely result in a slow painful death you would become disgruntled about the crossbow too. It's not the weapon it's the hunters, many "gun" hunters that will buy them without understanding the complexity of arrow/broadhead balance, weapon effective RANGE, kinetic energy and tracking a wounded animal. I guarantee there will be MANY that will go to their local Wal-Mart buy the cheapest crossbow, arrow, broadhead combination spend very little time shooting it the first year, let alone firing it much after that and non-fatally wounding entirely too many deer. Not a fan and I hope the department keeps them in the rifle season or for those that have disabilities and can't draw a bow. Our non-resident license fees are too low for the quality of deer and deer hunting we have in this state. This, in my opinion, is one reason we have a higher amount of non-resident hunters than our neighboring states who have almost twice as high permit costs, this brings the floods of non-resident hunters and leasers and has for years, and watching my county as I came back from the military go from a county where you could ask a local landowner for permission to hunt and hunt in the 80's to not being able to find any private ground without leasing for thousands of dollars after the turn of the century. Hunting Texas in the early 90's exposed me to this dynamic that has since hit Kansas, Iowa, Illinois and now Missouri, a resident of this state has extreme difficulty finding private ground to hunt and teach his children how to hunt, and state grounds are becoming more overrun with non-resident hunters/campers during the best times of the hunting season and don't provide a resident the ability to feel comfortable that it's a safe environment to teach a young hunter how to enjoy the woods and harvest an animal. Raising fee's won't entirely fix this but we need to level the playing field and make it as difficult to hunt Missouri as a non-resident as it is for us to go to Illinois, Iowa or Kansas and hunt.

I agree with all of the proposed changes except for the following: Allowing crossbows to be used during archery. I do not agree with this change. Crossbows should only be used by those not physically capable of pulling back a regular bow due to injury or old age. I also think the non-resident permit price is too low. Out of state hunters continue to overtake many public and private lands. Before long, a Missouri resident is not going to have a place to hunt in Mo.

I disagree with almost everything here. Youth season has become a joke, it's an excuse for dads to poach deer on their kids tag. 6 years old is very young to expect a kid to have the maturity and understanding to kill an animal with any kind of respect and understanding, the last thing we

need is more youth season. All this does is encourage the blood lust for antlers instead of controlling deer population. Its already bad enough we give them the absolute best weekend for hunting before rifle season. As far as limiting the number of bucks during archery and cutting back on rifle season, this is also in bad taste. The low number of REPORTED deer at harvest is due to some major poaching issues not a low deer count. The conservation needs to put more effort in eliminating poached deer instead of limiting legal deer. One agent per county is a sad attempt to keep up with poaching. Crossbows are gonna ruin archery season, with a crossbow every sporting aspect, and skill gained with a bow is thrown out the window. It's as easy as shooting a gun and directly contradicts the issue on limiting deer kills and reducing hunting days. The crossbow will undoubtedly become very popular for the people that don't have the patience or respect for a bow and will result in a much larger bow season count. As a bow hunter I cherish archery season because of the dedication it takes and time that must be put in for a decent deer. The legalization of the crossbow will take this away from every bow hunter in the state. Bow season was created s for the bow and bow only, A CROSSBOW IS NOT A BOW. (I do agree with crossbows for those who are not able to use a bow).

I am opposed to crossbow hunting during archery season. In addition, I would like to see stricter requirements for medical exceptions to the rules. I have seen and heard of too many undeserving hunters being granted archery season, crossbow permits. I have seen the forms that an older hunter completes each year to access a closed conservation areas by vehicle. It appears that anyone willing to complete the form would be granted access. There is hunting available in these areas without granting driving privileges to areas that other hunters walk into to avoid the vehicle traffic.

First, I own over 1,200 acres in Missouri and have to pay nonresident fees even though I pay property taxes on my property. I believe nonresident landowners should receive the same benefits as resident landowners. Second, the rifle season should be moved back after the rut has taken place as Kansas does there rifle season which would do more to produce bigger older bucks than any other proposal I have read.

I am in favor of most of the changes. As an AVID archery hunter, who rarely rifle hunts anymore, I would fervently request the department consider letting archers fill any unfilled any-deer tag (buck tag) during the late season archery hunt after rifle season. Basically like our muzzleloader season is set up now. If you don't fill your rifle buck tag during rifle season, you can still fill it with a bow during late season. Please consider this. Secondly, the crossbows. I'm not a total crossbow hater, but would prefer to keep them out of archery seasons. If it is being used as a method to encourage children to hunt, or elderly, consider the following. Instead of making it available to all, make it available for everyone under 15 years of age, and everyone over 60 years of age, plus any one with a valid disability with a doctor's note. That will still encourage participation by the young and the older, as well as still allow archers with medical problems to participate as well. Please consider this as well. As the commission no doubt is aware, crossbows are effective, but not as effective as YouTube and other social media would have us believe. And I worry that someone with zero interest in archery will believe the hype that

crossbows are 100 yard weapons (they are most certainly NOT), increasing the number of wounded deer, and thereby possibly hurting hunter reputation among the non-hunting public. Thank you for listening

As an avid deer hunter (with compound bow, centerfire, and muzzleloader) I do not have issues with any of the proposed changes.

I'm a bowhunter. One reason I'm a bowhunter is because of the challenge it presents. There is something to say about taking an animal with a bow. I believe with the popularity of the outdoor market, the crossbow companies are pressuring MDC to allow their use, along with some people that want it "easier". I completely understand that some people can't pull back a bow because of disability but there is already a system in place for obtaining a permit with a doctor's recommendation. I am not for allowing crossbow use to just anybody. I like to bow hunt also because there are fewer people in the woods than there is during rifle season. Crossbows would bring more hunters into the woods. Here is my proposal to increase the number of bucks. I've hunted in Northern Mo where there is an antler restriction and seen numerous large frame bucks; in SE MO, not so much. The problem is, the abundance of public land in this area produces a high concentration of hunters during rifle season. As a result, 1-2 year old bucks are slaughtered. They just don't have the time to grow larger. My proposal would be to have a statewide antler restriction during archery and firearm season but not for youth season. Leave bag limits and time slots the same. But open up alternative season to rifles as well. This gives people plenty of time to hunt, keeps the concentration of hunters down making for a more enjoyable hunt, and increases the buck population. This whole proposal is obviously revenue driven. MDC wants to limit the bag number as well as the time but wants to increase permit sales because of the use of crossbows. None of it makes sense except for revenue. If, despite public input, this proposal comes to fruition, I wish you would pay your employees more. They deserve more pay for fire season alone.

I trust the Missouri Department of Conservation. It may have been started to provide more opportunities for hunters but today it's a lot more, I think more needs to be done to educate the public using media they are more likely to see than just the Departments website. I agree with reducing the number of days for firearm season. I agree with allowing crossbows during archery season. I agree with reducing the number of bucks to one during archery season, I think it should also include the 4pt restriction, if it doesn't already. I'm not an archer. I would rather see the late youth portion to be at the 'Christmas' break rather than Thanksgiving. I only hunt on Conservation areas and find that most of them are already too restrictive in regard to only being able to harvest one deer during firearms season. I think that non-resident cost should equal the cost imposed by surrounding states for non-resident or exclude them completely if they're from a state that does the same. I'm unsure of my feelings about landowner privileges as I don't own land nor am I willing to pay the outrageous cost being charged to lease property. As far as urban hunting, I thought it was restricted to archery only, but regardless of the past outcomes I think it should be retained. If it's true that the deer population is lower than desired, most probably

because of the recent hemorrhagic diseases rather than hunting pressure, reducing the number of days of the antlerless is acceptable.

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I read the proposed changes about the deer season and I support them all 100%.

The only proposal that I have a real problem with is allowing crossbows as a legal method during the archery season. Crossbow use should be reserved for hunters who aren't able to use a regular bow due to an injury or disability. We already have the advantage of new technology on compound bows that make them super-fast/accurate. Crossbows would put the odds even more in a hunters favor and would take more of the sport out of "archery" hunting than we already have with our fancy compound bows. I like the idea of one buck with an archery tag and I also think that it would be a good idea to implement the antler point restriction state wide to increase our odds for trophy whitetails in Mo.

I think MDC is on to something great here with these proposed changes. I have been hunting for 14 years, the last four primarily a bowhunter though. Crossbows should be allowed. Personally, it will give more people like my mother for instance, more hunting opportunities. She can't pull a bow very safely, and would prefer a crossbow. Plus, the older generation, who is very important also, it would allow them to continue their bow hunting through their golden years. I LOVE the idea of going to a one buck bag limit during archery season. It gives more chances for the bucks to reach that older age class and will make hunters more selective at their buck of harvest. I am from Kansas, and still hunt there every year. They are a one buck state, except that's for all 3 seasons (gun, muzzleloader, bow) Their age class is much better than Missouri's. I also

understand Mo has more hunters, and a bigger deer herd, but the herd is not as strong as it has been in recent years, and with all the gun hunters, and the growing bow crowd, the herd won't outgrow the carrying capacity that most farms and areas in Missouri are capable of holding. Iowa, Ohio, Kansas, and Kentucky I believe, are all one buck states. Look at the mature bucks they pump out year after year, while still keeping numbers in check and hunters happy. Make it a one buck state with bow PLEASE! The 3 day proposed doe season, may be a little short. But, then again, it would help the population rebound more. I'd prefer maybe a 5 day season, for a few folks who say can't get out to hunt during the 3 days that's proposed. The gun season, is what hurts Mo the most. Placing it in the rut is good for gun hunters, but does not protect the majority of bucks. Even with the APR in place, it doesn't protect say a 2 1/2 year old 8 point who still has a lot of potential. To my knowledge, wasn't APR put into place to protect the younger bucks from being harvested? It's still a good rule, but it doesn't really help the younger bucks with 8+ points. If I could choose a gun season date, I'd place it from November 20-29th. That would help the age class in Missouri dramatically. At first, it may turn away some non resident hunters, and upset a few resident hunters, but within 2-3 years of this, they would be more inclined to hunt simply because of the number of older larger bucks, which is a lot of what hunters are chasing now, those Missouri monarchs. Expanding the late youth portion, I think would be sufficient. Nothing wrong with that to my knowledge. Removing the urban portions, may have a reverse effect though. That sounds like a bad idea, as the herd will grow rapidly in the areas, potentially causing more traffic accidents, and a lot of unhappy citizens. Plus, there actually is some really good hunting in certain urban zones! I watched a 150 class buck all summer in 2014, within the city limits of Fulton. I'm not sure if the urban portion, would eliminate ALL the hunting in ALL the towns in Missouri, or if that's just for like the St.Louis/ Kansas City areas. I think 225\$ for a nonresident tag, is actually a little low. Its good compared to KS and Iowa's prices, but Mo is a great state to hunt. I think that could be increased some, to say 275 or 300\$. It still would draw interest from nonresidents, while generating a little more revenue for MDC. Keep up the good work MDC, and thank you for letting me voice my opinion. I'm thankful for all you guys do, and for making Missouri a great place to hunt, and with a few tweaks, this could be a top 4 state in the nation easy for whitetail hunting.

9 days of regular rifle season is plenty. I'd like to see a doe season between 5&9 days in length. I'm all for crossbows and one archery buck. I agree that the urban portion is ineffective. I'm not sure that a second youth season is really necessary if parents would put their kids enjoyment first and take them during regular and antlerless season.

If the agency believes that the proposed changes to season length and weapon use are best for the herd, then make them as such. I trust the agencies judgement. I love the long seasons, but if we need to lower the pressure, we should. The deer numbers in Howard Co. SW of Higbee appear down. And to any who oppose crossbows, I say the modern compound IS an upright crossbow (I use a recurve). Thank you for considering such feedback.

First, you should add a "MDC Email" option about how you heard about the changes. I received the email and read through the information it contained. Second, I am generally in favor of all of

the proposed changes mentioned above. I feel the deer population has rebounded somewhat on our farm and surrounding area, north central Howard County, from three years ago. Parts of the changes above I am not in favor of are allowing crossbows during archery season. I am 56 years old and still love to archery hunt with conventional equipment. Leave the crossbow requirement as is. There was no mention of the alternative methods season so I assume it stays the same. One of the things I would love to see is more mature, five year old, deer. Why not move the rifle season to the first week of December? That is what our neighbor Kansas does. It would allow more of the bucks that get shot as two and three year olds to have a chance to mature to their full potential.

I agree with the proposed changes to the 2016 - 2017 season However I think that the MDC should allow hunters to enter more than one managed hunt allowing a secondary choice if not drawn on their first primary choice and/or expand the number of managed hunts to help hunters with less opportunities have more of a chance of being drawn for a managed hunt.

I wholeheartedly agree with all the changes. Wish they could be implemented for 2015! Our property is right in the middle of a high pressure hunting area (lots of land around us is rented to hunters, and we are near government land that gets hunted a lot) and, over the past 5 years, we have seen significant decrease in the number of deer on our land. Time was, I could take a walk any day of the week through our woods and see at least 6-7 deer within a couple of hours. Now, I'm lucky if I see one in a week of walking.

I absolutely love the idea of allowing crossbows during archery season. The one proposal I'm not convinced on is the 1 archery antlered deer. The rationale that hunters may pass on smaller bucks because they don't have a second tag is overlooking that many more antlered deer are taken during rifle season. I believe those smaller bucks will just be taken near the end of rifle season when hunters with an Any Deer tag are left looking to put meat in the freezer.

I am not in favor of changing the length of the regular firearms season. It is nice to have two full weekends to hunt in the event of cold/rainy/snowy conditions that shut down deer movement. I don't want to feel like I have to sit out in the rain/snow/bitter cold because I've got less days to hunt. Having 12 days in the season to sit out the bad weather days inside is a big benefit to me. I have no problem with MDC moving the youth season and adding one day to the season. I would prefer to have two full weekends to hunt antlerless deer. Having two weekends gives me flexibility in the event I have family in town or Christmas parties to attend or bad weather. I'm good with 9 days or 2 full weekends to hunt antlerless. No problem on eliminating the urban zone portion for me. No problem on your proposed changes to the fall archery deer and turkey season.

I am in favor of all the proposed changes except the one to allow crossbows for all hunters during archery season.

I agree with most of the proposed changes. I like the firearms proposed changes, and I agree with the inclusion of crossbows in archery season. I would like to see the one buck rule for archery be amended to 2 bucks from any method. I primarily only Archery hunt and would like to still be able to kill two bucks. Sometimes with my military commitment I am not able to hunt gun

season and therefore I would not be afforded the same opportunity as other hunters to take two bucks. I still feel the need to remove all antler point restrictions. I am in the military and my time to hunt is limited. I hate the fact that I can't put meat in the freezer when the only deer I see on a weekend I am allowed to hunt is an "illegal" buck. He would taste just as good as any other deer, and if I want to put one of my limited buck tags on such a deer to fill my freezer that should be my choice. It is so frustrating it almost make me want to stop paying money to hunt in Missouri.

Yes to all. Really like crossbow change for bow season.

I agree with all changes except to let crossbows to use during Archery season. It should be more of a challenge. I like the rest. Let's get the deer bigger. Let the bucks grow. It's time to give back. I have a farm in NE Mo. I love mother nature.

I do not like the idea of allowing crossbows to be used during the archery portion. This will likely increase harvest numbers and many counties are already losing numbers of deer. It will also increase hunting pressure on deer and that may have a negative impact on the firearms portion of the season.

I believe it is time to make the Fall gun season on deer 9 days long. Change the youth season the way you have stated. One buck deer is sufficient during archery season. We don't need crossbows in archery season, unless it is an urban area where deer are a problem, then issue crossbow tags, to competent hunters, thru a conservation agent.

I will welcome the use of crossbows during archery season. It will help older, and younger people to enjoy the hunting season.

I am for all of the proposed changes that you are considering. I think we need a few more deer and this would be a good place to start. I think you are doing a good job overall of managing our deer herd. Thank you.

I agree with all proposed changes except one. Which is reducing the amount of antlered deer taken with archery from 2 to 1. Here is my opinion and idea. For the hunters that take time and money in building and managing a wildlife habitat for the sole purpose of enjoying and pursuing deer throughout the entire season, reducing to 1 deer will take enjoyment and experiences away. Not only do we pursue deer to hunt but to also experience the change in hunting strategy throughout the entire archery season. Hunting tactics change dramatically throughout the 4 months of archery, and by limiting hunters to only one antlered deer takes away from those experiences. So, here is my idea. Sell two any deer archery permits. The first is valid from Sep 15th to the day before the firearms season. The second, valid from the day after firearms season to Jan 15th. This will benefit both Hunters and The MDC in each of their goals. For the hunters who harvest a buck before gun, they still have the opportunity to hunt afterward. For those that don't get a buck, they still have their late season tag. This is my idea to keep all hunters including myself happy as well as maintaining the said goal from the MDC. I hope this was read and considered, for hunting is not just a sport or hobby, to many it's a way of life. Thank you and God Bless.

I agree with the changes you are making. I am glad the rifle season did not move, and do not mind it going shorter. All the other changes being made and put forward seem to be for the best of everyone. I remember when I was a kid, not seeing deer, or only does and at that time, you could not shoot a doe. So I think you have done a great job and things are so much better now. I still own land in Mo, and my relatives and parents live in Mo, so I come up to hunt every year, the cost an out of state permit along with all other cost's is kind of tough for me. Since I own land and pay taxes, it would be nice to get a break.

1. Ok to reduce season to 9 days. 2. Not in favor of changing or expanding youth seasons. In fact don't like them at all! 3. Ok w/3 day antlerless season. 4. Ok with eliminating urban zone, but wonder about deer control. 5. Very in favor of making crossbows legal in all seasons. 6. Ok with 1 antlered deer per archery season, really OK with 1 total for the year. 7. Ok with simplifying Cons. Area Regs. but not eliminating firearms. It is my feeling that the cost of out-of-state licenses discourages my family and friends in hunting with me. It should be lowered, particularly on private lands. I do enjoy receiving news from MDC on my email.

I am opposed to allowing the crossbow to be used by the general bowhunting population. I have no opposition to the use of the crossbow during the archery season if the participant has some physical condition that eliminates their usage of a typical compound, recurve, or longbow. Archers enjoy a long deer season due to the limitations of the bow's effective range as a hunting weapon and requires the archer to have the dedication to be able to employ the bow effectively. The crossbow would not require that dedication and could end up restricting the season lengths archers have enjoyed. On the reducing the bowhunters buck take from 2 to 1: Having archers take 2 bucks instead of one has no effect on the deer population. It also has no effect on the population of mature bucks. Restricting the buck deer take by antler restrictions is directly effective in providing more mature bucks.

Eliminate the Mo Dept of Conservation permanently. You cost too much, the salaries of employees are too high and your ideas are CRAP! There are too many d--n deer running around into this state's highways and cities running into cars causing expensive damage and killing motorists. If you are going to spend any money, spend it on high deer fences to protect motorists from the d--n deer. We don't care about your d--n deer. Your programs and regulations on poisonous snakes and mountain lions are crap too! I say kill all of these dangers (poisonous snakes, cougars) to the Missouri residents. You people live in la la land.

I am in favor of the November portion to be nine days. Leave the youth portion as is. I thought it was for kids getting a rifle for xmas. Antlerless firearms, I am for three days, or eliminate it completely. I could go either way for urban zones. I am NOT in favor of crossbows for archery season. I am NOT in favor of changing from two to one in the archery season.

I am not in favor of shortening the antlerless season or the antlered season. As a person that does not always a normal work week, I would run the possibility of missing an entire season of hunting. I would be more in favor of the different seasons staying as they are, but restricting the number of deer that can be harvested. I am in favor of the late youth season, being moved up and extended, as this would give youth a chance to hut the rut. I would like to see Missouri, go to a

system for out of state hunters, that makes it harder for them to hunt Missouri. If we decreased the number of deer taken by in state residents and made it harder for out of state hunters to harvest deer. Then we would see older and more mature deer, start to grow in the state.

Dear MDC, Thank you for keeping Missouri's hunters apprised of the proposed regulation changes for 2015-16. I have been following the departments public notices for the past few years, and would like to thank you for all the hard work that you do. I appreciate the opportunity to comment on a few of the proposed regulation changes. First, I support the move to a single antlered tag during archery season. It should reduce overall buck harvest, and hopefully make archery hunters more selective. While I do believe reducing the firearms season to 9 days is a step in the right direction, the main detriment to our deer herds age structure is the timing of our gun season. 2-3 year old bucks (and all bucks in general) are so vulnerable during our gun season (which falls in the peak of the rut), that this is the most significant limiting factor hindering an older age structure in Missouri. It's the main difference between states like Ohio/Iowa, and Missouri. I sincerely believe the MDC was on the right track with last year's proposal to push our gun season back a few days, to Thanksgiving week. I believe this would have a much more profound effect on improving the age structure of the herd, and the quality of the hunting overall. If youth and elderly hunter recruitment and retention can be benefitted by the use of crossbows, it would seem appropriate to allow hunters under 18 and over 60 (or hunters with medical need) the use of crossbows during archery season. Personally, I do not view a crossbow as a bow (no need to draw, hold draw weight etc), and do not see the need to include them for use by the general public in the archery season. But I see no harm in allowing youth, seniors, or those with medical need access to crossbows during archery season. Thank you for all the work the department does, and for allowing public input such as this. Sincerely, N.B.

I am fine with most of the proposed changes, but I do have concerns with a couple of them. First, I don't support opening archery season for crossbows. I believe if you are elderly or have a disability I fully support it. If we're trying to manage for bigger bucks, and less bucks killed during archery season this is not the answer. I am not against allowing only one buck killed during archery season, however I feel that a point restriction statewide would have a better result. Although it's not on this list, another element that would help buck management would be to move the youth firearms portion two weeks earlier. The youth are in prime pre-rut conditions, and a lot of bucks are killed. I am happy for the youth, but I am also concerned if they truly appreciate their trophy. I know there were concerns having it Halloween weekend, that's why I would suggest the weekend before. I would not be against moving the November firearms portion back a week to allow more dominate bucks breed does. I know I've through a couple of topics that aren't on this list, but I wanted to share my concerns on buck management. Thanks for giving us a change to provide feedback.

I agree with shortening the 11 day firearm season from 11 days to 9 days. I believe the youth portion should stay at 2 day only per youth hunt. I believe the antlerless portion should be reduced to 3 days and eliminate the urban hunt. I VERY strongly believe crossbows should NOT be allowed during archery season. I archery hunt in an urban area & feel crossbow usage would

be dangerous in those areas. Will there be any special regulations dealing with those areas?
I believe 1 antlered deer in archery season is a good idea.

Eliminate the antlerless season and move alternative methods to week before Christmas. We like to muzzleloader hunt and the week of Christmas really puts a damper on hunting time. Hunters can take does anytime during gun or alternative.

Crossbows belong in rifle season only - ok to reduce deer harvest from 2 to 1.

I agree with your proposed change after reading your rational. However, I am one of the residents who benefited from longer seasons, not to get more hunting time in but to get to hunt at all because of my job. The longer season gave me more of a window of time to fit my one or two days of deer hunting in. I have to fit hunting to my work schedule. There are a lot of us with this issue. Thank you for all your hard work. –J.A. in Republic, Mo.

I am in complete favor of all the proposed changes. GREAT JOB MDC for listening to everyone's concerns and developing a plan that suits everybody. Of all the changes, I and many I speak with are most in favor of allowing crossbows as a legal method during the archery deer and turkey season. Additionally, I have been a huge proponent of allowing baiting only within urban zones during archery season to allow for a closer more lethal shot to save hunters from having to trek across sometimes multiple neighboring properties to recover a deer. Thanks again for hearing everyone's thoughts and ideas and putting together a realistic plan that pleases everybody.

I think all changes need to be made using scientific study and the consideration of what is best to preserve and grow the state's deer herd.

I generally go along with any changes the MDC recommends because you have done an outstanding job with game management in Missouri. I support reducing the firearms season to 9 days, reducing the antlerless to 3 days, eliminating the urban portion, and reducing the archery limit to one. However, I have a major objection with taking trophy opportunities away from the avid adult hunter and handing them to the youth. I strongly opposed moving the first youth season to the first week in November. This is the best archery weekend of the year. This season should be fixed to the weekend before Halloween. I STRONGLY OPPOSE moving the 2nd season to the start of the second rut and expanding it to 3 days. Leave it as is, in January. I really do not understand or ACCEPT the MDC's infatuation with continuing to create easier opportunities for hunters under 15 years old to get a trophy buck. Many of those hunters are under 12, many not even capable of holding a gun on their own. et they come in one weekend a year, kill a nice buck, and think there is nothing to hunting. I strongly suggest that your obsession with attracting young hunters is actually having a negative impact on the sport. These kids are checking the trophy buck box at such a young age that they will not be long term hunters, they will move on to something else. You are playing right in to the easy and fast culture we continue to create for youth. I was not allowed to hunt on my own until I was 13 and that was a squirrel hunt. My first hunt at 9 was to walk along and carry the squirrels my uncle shot. I still remember all of the details of that day. I was hooked right then. The biggest buck I have ever killed was last year at age 62 in Texas, 151 gross, on a public lands archery hunt. My point is these kids

absolutely do not need to kill a trophy when they are barely able to hold a gun. They really have no way of appreciating or respecting what they are being allowed to do. If you feel the need to give the kids more chances, then make all of the youth seasons antlerless only or change the dates out of the first and second rut as I have suggested. If a youth is not happy with a doe, then they are not being taught the proper ethics of hunting. You are making a mistake with increasingly making it so easy for them to take a trophy. A little bit about myself so you don't think I am a disgruntled old hunter. At am 63 and have loved hunting all my life. I buy Missouri deer and turkeys tags every year, even the years as a non-resident when I lived in Texas. I am a member of the Pope & Young Club and the NRA. I am a Missouri landowner. My uncle was my hunting mentor. My dad didn't hunt, but supported it and loved being in camp with us. I have two children. I exposed them to hunting and the outdoors at an early age. Both love the outdoors, love to fish, to float, to camp, but they never got the urge to pursue and harvest game on their own. They support guns and hunting, and I can absolutely assure you that pushing them to shoot a trophy at age 6 would not have changed this basic instinct. You are heading down the wrong path with youth season at the expense of the hunting population that pays your bills. You are forcing kids into the adult world way too early.

I think your changes will help. Saw fewer deer this year.

timing of firearms season is ok , youth late season is perfect, no comment on the antlerless portion or urban zones, NO to allowing crossbows as legal should remain as is, only yes to archery antlered if crossbows are legalized because they are more lethal. crossbows are not archery but firearm that shoots a bolt, if it was archery equipment the archery industry would call its projectile an arrow.

I support the change to expand the late youth portion to 3-days beginning the first Friday after Thanksgiving

Firearms season changes: I'm fine with shortening the November portion to 9 days, but disagree with maintaining the current timing. I would like to see it moved to the first week of December to get it out of the rut. I hunt with both firearms and archery equipment, so I'm not just saying this because I want to bow hunt during the rut. I am fine with the changes to the youth portion. I agree with the changes to the antlerless season. No opinion on the urban zone changes. Archery season changes: I agree with allowing crossbows and with only allowing 1 antlered deer. Conservation area regulations: I mostly hunt private ground, but will occasionally hunt public. I agree with these changes.

I am 100% for these changes. Esp. the use of a crossbow during archery season. I think you're doing a great job! Keep up the good work.

As a nonresident hunter, Missouri landowner and sensitive conservationist, I applaud the changes proposed by MDC. My family owns land in Clinton County and have observed the recent decline in deer populations over the last decade. We would welcome a shorter rifle season and even entertain the possibility of moving in to the latter stages of the rut. Reducing the doe kill will naturally help the population rebound but doing this without also reducing total buck kills will continue to move the buck;doe ratio in the wrong direction. Limiting the bow hunter to a

single buck is an improvement here but I would favor the consideration of allowing only one buck per hunter regardless of weapon as some of your neighboring states have done. As of the crossbow issue, I think it merits consideration but is not remotely in the spirit of the changes needed by the current deer population. I believe that the crossbow conversation should be tabled while trying to measure the successes of implementing new rules to boost healthy deer populations. Lastly as an interest conflicted, non-resident permit buying hunter I would love to see landowners treated as residents. Regardless though, I'll buy my permit as long as I can put in my two cents!

1- I agree with reducing the length of the Nov. firearms season and the antlerless season. 2- I do not agree with moving the late youth season to Thanksgiving weekend, people are very busy and even traveling this weekend due of the holiday, and I think the first weekend in Jan. is a better time to hunt because the deer are much more active, the weather conditions really are not a problem because I think most youths hunt from blinds or shooting houses anyway, most schools are closed for Xmas break so Friday could be added here as well. 3- I am ok with crossbows for a weapon but I believe the use of them for the entire regular archery season will add significantly to the total harvest and not help build the herd back up. 4- I do not agree with limiting archers to only 1 antlered deer, I am a very avid archery hunter who was lucky enough to harvest a mature buck in early Nov. in 2014, I then spent some very enjoyable time bowhunting the late season. I just cannot imagine this change making any noticeable difference in the overall herd.

I am appalled that there is a proposed change to limit the number of bucks taken with bow from 2 to 1. If MDC really wants to see more bucks, and more mature bucks for that matter, move the firearms season out of the rut altogether and make the 4 point on one side restriction state-wide. Moving the firearms season out of the rut would be rather unpopular with a lot of people, but perhaps the allowance of the crossbow during bow season would compensate for that.

I think all of these proposed regulation changes are excellent. However, I would like to add one additional change: An "Old-Geezer Hunt". Special hunting weekend for anyone over the age of 70 with rules similar to the "Youth Hunt"! Regards, J.W., Washington, Mo.

Overall I like the changes but would like to be able to use an open rifle tag to tag a late season buck shot with a bow if I already filled my regular bow tag. No to crossbows during bow season. I do however still strongly disagree with the Nonresident Landowner discounted tags being taken away a few year back. Nonresident landowners that owned land at the time should have been grandfathered in. I believe the overall economy in rural areas is missing out on revenue from Nonresident landowners. I would turkey hunt, archery hunt, and rifle hunt every year if I had landowner tags which would mean that much more \$ spent in Mo. each season. As it is now, more often than not, I only hunt one season so I spend far less time in Mo. than I would otherwise.

I like the crossbows being allowed I think that will extend the archery season for us older people as for the seasons being shortened that is fine by me youth season after Thanksgiving great idea 1 buck for archery season is plenty.

There is no reason to cut down on buck tags for bow hunters but yet think about letting crossbows become a legal method! This will do nothing but increase the percentage of deer taken with a bow, in which you say has risen to 19% since the year 2000. Archery season is not the problem. Move rifle season out of the middle of the rut, like our wise neighbors to the north and you solve the problem. Deer numbers will increase and you will see an increased number of bucks because it's not in the rut.

I would like to comment on the purposed changes. I think you hit the nail on the head with all of it except the crossbow and the limit to only one antlered deer during bow season and the price for nonresident deer permits. Why not let the youth up to 16 years of age use a crossbow and let anyone over the age of 60 use a crossbow. (seems fair to Me.) There are very few hunters who bag a second antlered deer after the gun season. So why take away from the few that can do it? On the non-resident deer permits, they should be reciprocating per state. I go to Iowa every other year and pay up to 600.00 for a tag, if they come here they should have to do the same. Maybe then their state will lower the price per tag!

I have always believed that as compound bows and now crossbows are coming into play that hunter orange rules should be the same for bows as it is for firearms. The killing range and now the ability to fire quickly with a crossbow give me grave concern. I have experienced two near misses during firearm season over the years and I firmly believe with the added draw of crossbows being allowed the woods will be more highly populated with hunters.

Yes to allowing use of crossbow.

I have read the proposed changes and agree with them. I especially support the elimination of the urban zones portion and reducing the antlerless season to three days. I feel these are good changes for two important reasons. 1.The deer herd is more in control in many areas of the state and below desired levels in some areas. 2.The deer firearms hunting was beginning to interfere with many other hunting sports. Reducing the dates will eliminate the number of people deer hunting in areas and free up weekends for game such as, rabbit, quail and archery.

I really think you should consider moving gun season back one week. By moving it back one week, most people would only burn 3 days' vacation instead of 5 and most bucks will have already bred the first round of does. I really think crossbows should be limited to kids under 16, greater than 60 and handicap. Otherwise people can use them during gun season or alternative season. As far as youth season is concerned, most kids are still on Christmas break the weekend following New year's. Also, there are a lot of kids that get a rifle for Christmas. This gives them a chance to use it right away. If you move it up to Thanksgiving, the deer haven't had a chance to settle down after the regular gun season. I really think you should consider a state wide antlerless 3 day season in Oct. instead of a urban portion, then most people will spend time in Nov. hunting for that buck. Are there really that many bow hunters that shoot there second buck. I know I am a picky hunter and I have never killed both my bucks. I would have to look back to even see when the last buck I even killed with a bow.

I think what has been proposed is a very good idea. The past few years has been terrible for my family that hunt with me. I'm glad the proposed change in using a crossbow since I'm unable to hunt with my bow now.

Do not reduce regular season to 9 days. Leave it as is. Second youth season is good idea. Start antlerless season of new youth season. Leave length the same as it was this year. No comment on Urban Zones. Do not change limit on Archery season. Leave the limit the same as last year. Yes, allow crossbows during Archery season. Do not hunt Conservation areas.

I'm an avid bow hunter. Deer numbers are down now due to disease, predation, and hunting pressure. I would be fine with limiting the number of antlered deer to one but absolutely against allowing crossbows during archery season. The bow hunting industry, enjoys getting out into the woods without all the pressure of tons of other hunters, atvs driving around, and trespassers. It's a time to relax and do some serious all day hunts. If you allow crossbows, the sheer number of hunters in the woods during bow season will sky rocket and the number of deer killed/wounded will go through the roof. I score at different events for Boone and Crockett and talk to a lot of people about this and they agree. What I don't understand is if Iowa is the number 1 deer state in the nation and all deer hunters applaud the DNR for the way they setup the deer regulations and seasons, why not follow their lead? It's already proven. Kansas even got onboard and they are killing more and bigger bucks than Missouri will ever see unless the seasons change. Move the gun season back one week would make a huge difference. It's a matter of making a healthier, stronger deer herd with more disease tolerance. Most gun hunters and the hunters that want crossbows allowed are not your true dedicated hunters. They are the hunters that spend one or two weekends out stomping around looking for any shot opportunity. I've spoken with several guys who have waivers for crossbows currently and they have nothing wrong with them but their doc wrote them a waiver to use a crossbow just because they said it was much easier to kill a deer than with a regular bow.

I really like the archery season changes and like the rifle season changes, everything look good! The only thing I don't like and is not on there is youth early season is before rifle season because dads are taking their kids and out and shooting big bucks on their kids tags and putting deer on alert before season.

I somewhat agree on all changes EXCEPT the use of crossbows during archery season unless there is a handicap or medical condition preventing the ability to use a bow. The use of crossbows would greatly increase the amount of deer harvested during archery season. The use of crossbows seems counteractive to increasing deer population.

I would like to see the antler-point restriction statewide for adults. Youth should be allowed to hunt anything. I am also in favor of allowing the use of feeders. To keep deer around were you hunt. I hunt in small acres fields. It's hard to keep deer there daily. I have seen several small bucks all year long that I let grow to see them shot the next day. I support the current regulation of not allowing crossbows during archery season. I am in favor of allowing crossbows for medical reason with two doctor approvals. Or a age reason under 12 and over 60. I would like limiting the number of bucks and does a hunter can harvest. It would be a good way for hunters

to have a better opportunity to harvest an older age class buck. Maybe if you kill a buck during archery you cannot kill another till after gun season even if you have a rifle tag. No unlimited doe permits.

Seriously doubt any of these will change the Missouri deer herd population/health, etc - It really just sounds like you guys just did not work on Thanksgiving. (i.e. sounds much more like a MDC payroll thing). And why Missouri is not one of the finest pheasant hunting states in the nation escapes me. Please call your buddies in South Dakota and asked them how they do it, as we have as good a habitat (if not better) then they do.

I get emails from MDC and that is how I heard of the proposed changes. Comments on changes. Agree with changing "November portion" to 9 days. Most hunters work or are in school so those last 2 days, so this would not have much effect on hunters plans. However, my opinion is that reducing by these 2 days would not impact the harvest as hunters will likely hunt slightly more during the previous week, if they cannot hunt those last 2 days. Disagree with moving the antlerless season to Dec. Can we assume that the regulations set for 2014 did not work to reduce the doe harvest? How about reducing it to 3 days to coincide with the youth hunt? Allow the youth to take bucks or doe during that period. This would allow the parent to hunt at the same time and motivate the parent to take the youth hunting with. Pushing the antlerless only season to Dec resembles the late alternate methods season where we are hunting the winter herds. Also, if it is pushed to Dec, it will likely stay there. What was the point of the late youth hunt? If it is to reduce the doe herd and we don't want to do that right now, just eliminate it and the youth can hunt does and bucks during the antlerless only period with their parent, after the main hunt. Early January is a miserable, cold time to hunt (usually). Why eliminate the urban zones hunts? Agree with other proposed changes.

I think these are some good ideas.

First off, thank you for all you do in helping to conserve Missouri's natural resources and beauty. I think the majority of the proposals for the 2016-17 season are a step in the right direction in putting Missouri back in the conversation with Iowa, Illinois and Kansas as big buck capitals. I know in my town of Princeton, Mo we get a lot of out-of-state hunters who fill up the town during firearm season because of the low cost of non-resident tags. Great for the economy, but the immature deer they continue to take and at high numbers seems to take its toll. I would love to see the price increase slightly to be in the ballpark of Iowa (over \$500) and Illinois (over \$300). A given decrease in long-term revenue, but the benefits realized to the deer herd would be noticeable. As an avid bowhunter, I am happy with decreasing firearm days while at same time giving youth hunters a better opportunity with renewed dates. This will help establish a larger, more mature herd (possibly a big enough step to not have to eliminate the reduction of antlered deer during bow season). The concern I have is mainly with crossbows. I have noticed many veteran and enthusiast hunters, including myself, don't recognize the crossbow as any kind of equivalent to a true bow. I feel putting the crossbow on a level playing field will instill in our youth to take the easier route of being able to harvest deer. We may see less youth involved in bow competitions, bow-tuning hobbies, and possibly less appreciation for our wildlife as

crossbow hunting usually equates to easier kills. I strongly feel crossbows should be left for only those with disabilities or other valid reasoning. Thank You!

I agree with the youth season extension from 2 to 3. But not moving the days. people get mad because youth kill big deer before they get to hunt firearm. NO to crossbows unless you have medical reason. I love bow hunting and people just want an easier way.

I do not believe Missouri should allow the use of crossbows during archery season. Although crossbows are not as accurate or as far reaching as a high powered rifle, they are still too much like a gun. I like archery hunting because there isn't as many people doing it, and I believe that opening it up to crossbows would crowd the archery only areas and destroy the deer population. I do not believe that it is a way to get more people into archery. I do not even consider a crossbow to be in the same category as a compound or recurve bow. A crossbow is shot just like a gun and a bow is not.

I appreciate your proposal to allow crossbows during archery season. I have a medical exemption, but would still be more comfortable knowing that I don't have to have all of the extra paperwork to be able to hunt. I don't however approve of the antler point restriction for everyone. I believe that if you are going to let youth hunters take a deer with less than 4 points on a side you should also make it where senior citizens like myself could fill their tag with whatever kind of buck that pleases them. I am just as proud of a spike as a 10 point buck and since the antler point restriction I'm having a hard time filling my tag. I don't have the time or ability to spend a lot of time afield anymore so would appreciate if you would consider my proposal. The rifle season should remain where it is. I love hunting with my gun during the rut. The antlerless portion should have been reduced years ago. So I agree. Maybe do the doe tags as a lottery like it used to be years ago. My problem with the department is that I think a lot of the rules makes it harder for an older person with limited income to be able to hunt deer and enjoy the outdoors because there are so many rules. I'm talking about the antler point restrictions again. This is put in place so that there are bigger and older deer. I understand. The bottom line is that the department wants to make the extra revenue from out of state tags drawn here by the thought of killing the "Missouri Monarch". It used to be fun to go hunting. Now you have to worry that the deer you shot might not be big enough. I could go on and on.

I agree with most of the changes proposed with a couple of exceptions. I am a bowhunter and I typically use a compound bow. I do have a recurve, but not confident enough yet. A compound is a huge advantage over a recurve due to the fact it can be drawn and held for a fairly long time compared to a recurve/long bow. If someone wants to bowhunt, then that's what they need to use. If your reason is to get younger people in the sport, they should be willing to try and bowhunt. A cross bow is almost a gun. Especially when they are decked out with scopes. As for older folks staying in the sport and I understand they may have issues with drawing a bow. All they need is a letter from a doctor and they can hunt with a cross bow already. Please leave the rules the way they are now. Second change proposed, reducing the number of bucks from 2 to 1 for archery. My problem with this is it will result in more does being killed later in the season and I usually hold out for a buck later in the season. My reasoning is I believe the deer population is down and

I feel if I shoot a doe late there is a good chance she is pregnant and instead of killing one deer I've killed two or even three. In the past two seasons I believe I have seen almost as many bucks as does. Which brings me to another comment. I would like to see a "Cull a Buck" season. Meaning maybe every 3 or 4 seasons drop the four point restriction so we can cull some of these inferior bucks from the gene pool. We have seen some scrawny racked deer the past several years and we would like to remove them from passing on their genes. People are killing the good genetic deer and leaving the little racked although mature deer to carry on. I know the state is trying to make the herd have a higher quality buck but I'm not so sure it's working out that way. Thanks for listening or actually reading.

I am in favor of all of these changes but would also like to request the Youth Rifle season never be held on Halloween weekend again in the future. It sometimes forces youth to decide between the two. Thanks

Shortening the Nov. gun hunt to 9 days is a good idea. The youth hunt is fine as it is. Reducing the antlerless hunt to 3 days is a good idea. Eliminating the urban hunt is a good idea. Do not make crossbows legal for non-disabled people, as it is, almost anyone can get a doctors excuse to use one. I know one able bodied person who harvested two trophy deer with a crossbow in 2014 who is just as capable as me to shoot a compound bow. If you are trying to limit the number of deer harvested why take all challenges to do so away. I disagree with the idea of one buck instead of two during archery season. I have been bowhunting for 35 yrs. and have not harvested two bucks but would be upset if the opportunity to kill a second trophy deer presented itself and I could not harvest it. I don't feel I should be penalized because others can't show restraint in holding off on lesser bucks. Hopefully all these changes will be looked at again as the population recovers. Something not mentioned here is moving muzzleloader season back to right after thanksgiving. Thanks

Since 2009 I have been distraught over the price increases for nonresident landowner permits. If you hunt deer, turkey both archery and firearm, trap, small game hunt, and migratory bird hunt the cost is astronomical. In order to be a good steward and neighbor of the surrounding area you own, you must pay taxes, and improve your property. The cost of this is expensive and 100's of thousands of dollars are spent in the local economy. Thus a break in price for permits for non resident landowners should be as it was before 2009. I totally agree that regular non resident permits should be more because they do not spend the money I do. I think you should look at all the free permits you give to resident landowners. I'm 66 years old and a retired military man. I hunt for free in my home state after paying for many years. I'm selecting about right on the next question but I don't believe it's right for non resident landowners.

I would like to take the time to say that I think the MDC has done a wonderful job of deer management in the past but I fear that some of the changes you are proposing will bring about the wrong outcome to our sport. I fully agree that the deer herd isn't what it was or where I would like to see it ,so the reduced limits that you propose I am in favor of. Where you lose my support is with the introduction of the cross-gun into the archery season. In your example you stated that bow hunters have increased in numbers and in the percentage of kills over the years so we need

to go back to one buck a year then on the other hand you state that we should include a more user friendly weapon that takes little to no practice to be proficient with for everyone to participate in said season. The elderly can get a doctors excuse now and the youth would be better served if they would take the first learning years to get to know the joys of learning how to bowhunt! I think that most of the support for the inclusion of cross-guns comes from the crossbow lobby and not youth and elderly. My next concern is that we think that our nonresident fees are comparable to our out of state neighbors. I don't think you have tried to apply for a zone 5 tag in Iowa lately. It takes at least 3 years for me to draw and then the tag costs \$550. Maybe we wouldn't have to go to one deer on my bow tag if some of the nonresidents had to pay reciprocal pricing and could only get a tag as often as there easiest to draw unit is.

The original intent of the second youth season was to give kids an opportunity to hunt with gifts they receive at Christmas. Moving the 2nd youth season to November defeats this purpose.

Crossbows should not be a legal method for archery deer or turkey season. This should only be allowed for disabled persons and continue to be that way.

I mostly agree with the proposed changes, however I would like to see the opportunity for hunters to shoot their 2nd antlered deer with a firearm or bow. I don't really see where limiting the number of bucks archery hunters take will really be impacting the harvest data that much. The percentage of archery hunters who take 2 bucks is very insignificant compared to the number of antlered bucks killed by firearm hunters. It would make more sense to increase out of state permit cost and limit the number of any deer permits issued for firearms. I am glad to see some strides in the right direction. I would like to see the population come back to the point that I see more deer per sit and increase my opportunity for success. I mostly hunt Randolph and Callaway counties and have seen a steady decline over the past 10 years due to the liberal harvest limits and EHD outbreaks.

Crossbows should not be allowed as an acceptable method during archery portion of deer and turkey season.

I agree with the changes and think we need to focus on only one spring turkey tag until we can get the population back to what it should be. Limit the number of archery tags to one antler and one antlerless

Move the d--n firearms portion back after the rut i.e. Iowa, Kansas. Put a cap on buck harvest to 2, but with the option to harvest 2 with bow or 1 with firearm and 1 with bow. You people have really screwed up the deer herd in this state. I'm all for hunting with firearms, but when you put a firearm in someone's hand for over 2 months straight it's no wonder why the hunting has plummeted!

To whom this may concern, first off thanks for everything you do for our sport, next I hunt at a conservation area in northeast Mo. Mineral Hills Area. I have hunted there for years and I have several concerns. First we are one of the only areas around that, until this year, offered unlimited antlerless permits and still this year had unlimited archery antlerless permits so people from other areas close by would come here and shoot antlerless deer. Over the last few years I have noticed our doe population really declining and our small buck population actually growing. I hunt there

roughly 30 days a year between archery, firearm, and muzzleloader and have taken many deer, both bucks and does. I'm not a few weekends a year guy but this year it really stood out and according to the agents I've talked to. Other hunters are reporting the same thing. We are seeing many small bucks (too many) and not enough does to hold good bucks. Mature bucks are leaving the area and staying on the private ground where the abundance of does are. Also, for the first time in 6 or 7 years that I saw small bucks only with racks on one side (which I should have taken both) hindsight though now. I personally would like to see the antler restriction removed for a few years, and not allow any antlerless to be taken for the next 3 years. The point restriction by third year was awesome and for the next couple years very good also but then the nice bucks started disappearing and being replaced by smaller non legal bucks. I bet the total between small bucks and does was pretty close that I've seen but mature bucks 2 1/2 and 3 1/2 and older I've seen 6 total this year and 2 of them were together. We had snow opening day and it stayed all week long and other than opening day, I never saw another doe being chased, but saw many small bucks wandering around every day and saw no signs in the snow at all where any chasing happened the whole week but hunters in town (Unionville) were talking about how much chasing was happening out there, which most were on private ground. Just my thoughts, thank you

Youth should only be able to kill antlerless deer. For management you allow them to kill small bucks defeating the purpose of building a quality herd. Crossbows should not be considered archery equipment. They should only be used during firearms season. One buck a year no matter what method you use should be allowed to be killed each year.

The number of days for antlerless deer seems like a lot but mostly I want to thank you for doing your job.

Email from MDC.

I don't like any of the changes! Mostly don't restricted antlered number on archery tags! 2nd don't let people use crossbows during archery season.

I don't think the changes are gonna make much difference. I believe the deer population is down and missing a few days of rifles season isn't going to make much difference because people are just going to shoot the deer they see sooner other than letting them walk waiting for a good one. Not many people I know hunt the whole season and if they hunt the later dates it's just to get some meat which is not helping the population. I think the real problem is the nonresidents coming here because the tags are cheap and easy to get and they are not going home empty handed they have also made it near impossible to find good land to hunt for a reasonable price. I have hunted since I was 12 years old and I'm now done hunting until something changes most of the people I know feel the same way. I'm disappointed with the way our conservation department works it looks like they are catering to the nonresidents and don't pay attention to what the residents have to say about it.

I think the state of Missouri should at least match the tag prices of the surrounding state fees. Illinois charges almost \$600.00 for out of state but can come here for \$225.00 what's fair about that?

I would not like to see any changes in the current deer seasons. I think the seasons are good the way they are.

I have been hunting all of my life and some of these changes are a little off in my opinion. I have been wanting/waiting for Missouri to implement a program to increase the mature buck population. The antler restriction program would be nice if it was statewide or even if you limited the bow total to one buck per season that would add up over time. I wouldn't be opposed to doing both but that would be harder on the novice hunter. Bow hunting is more popular than ever and has taken the sport of whitetail hunting to the next level. Introducing crossbows as a means to hunt during the standard bow season would be a tragedy in my opinion. They are more like a gun and give you the range and accuracy to take deer at ranges of 75yds. Crossbows should be kept and used in the same manner as they are currently, either with a disability slip or during the alternative methods season. Shortening the rifle season portion would be fine with me. The last thing I will touch on is the youth season expansion. First of all I think that the youth season is an awesome thing to have for the kids! It gets kids out of the home and in touch with nature. I wish that would have been available when I was younger! However, I don't agree with having both youth seasons during the month of November. Typically the weekend that youth season is on is during the rut and has a great success rate! If we allowed another weekend during the month of November it would be overkill for guns. The youths would be out for the first and second rut of the season so that would really put a hurt on our buck population. And if the state wants to bring in more out of state hunters (\$\$) then allowing the bucks to mature will be the way to get it done.

I totally agree with all of your new proposal's. However would you consider the crossbow change to start this year or possibly at least to people who have reached the age of 65. Thanks, A.W.

Yes I think that archery hunters should only be allowed to shoot one antlered deer. Also, I believe that if they do they cannot shoot another during the firearms portion. Yes it is good to reduce the firearms portion of the season. No you shouldn't decrease the length of doe season to 3 days. I spent longer than that hunting for a doe. No you shouldn't schedule the second portion of youth season for the first Friday following Thanksgiving nor should you change to three days at the expense of antlerless portion of the season. I also would like to see the first portion of the youth season discontinued. Many hunters look forward to shooting a 150+ class buck, however, the youth are harvesting some of these bucks before others have a chance. I understand the reason for this portion, however, I believe that youths should hunt with the rest of us during the regular portion of the season. This is how it was when I was young and it was just as exciting and encouraging. I agree with the rest of the recommendations.

I agree with all the proposed changes, especially the 1 buck archery change. I also think that 2 bucks by any method per hunter per year is absolutely necessary. As far as non resident hunters, those that are non resident landowners should be rewarded if they have developed and are implementing a MDC management plan. Lower fees for hunting permits would recognize the benefits adjacent landowners and resident hunters realize from good habitat management.

DOC went too generous with the deer tags/regs. You can't have public land border private land and have the regs. The changes that have been discussed don't really bother me or my family members. I support the sales tax that has been voted on by the taxpayers. One other thing, I didn't really want to harvest a deer this year. Way too much going on with the deer population. For the most part, DOC does a fantastic job. J.L.K.

Without knowing why the changes are occurring, it's hard to comment. I'd love to attend a seminar but just like the hunter safety courses, I'd have to drive 80 miles to attend. There should be more attention given to finding ways to reach everyone instead of making it only easy for MDC. As far as the deer population, I haven't noticed much change in our area. Also, I'll never understand why turkey season starts on a Monday. Nothing like penalizing the working man. Seems to work fine starting deer season on a Saturday.

I support changing regulations to protect our deer population if necessary. My suggestion would be move our opening weekend a week later. Have it coincide with Illinois first season. While MDC revenue could be reduced initially from out of state fees, this would slow the harvest and Illinois hunters would ultimately come to our last weekend of season which would minimize any loss of revenue. Out of state hunters feel compelled to shoot immature deer since they have paid so much for their tag. I also own property in Illinois and hunt there but would hunt the second season in Illinois. Thank you.

I would be greatly disappointed to see crossbows being allowed during archery season.

I agree with all the proposal. You're doing a great job, keep it up. B.

Most important keep rifle season opening weekend the same. Keep it an 11 day season, the two extra days are nice for those that must work weekends. A great move for the youth late deer season gives kids more and better opportunity. Crossbows are legal in most surrounding states would be a great benefit for Missouri. Good move on shortening the doe season now. Good job on allowing public input.

Crossbow=I'm for it. 9 day season=I'm for it. Changes to youth season=I'm for it. One buck limit for bow hunters=I'm for it, in fact I would like to see a one buck limit like Kentucky has. I'm fine with the other changes also. Would also like to see an end to land owner permits, or at least make them void if a person purchases a statewide permit, would also like to see random checks off harvest location to make sure deer are taken on the landowners property.

Do not punish those who live in Missouri. Restrict out of state hunters or change gun season rules but bow season is fine the way it is

1. Reducing gun season 2 days won't matter much, most are pretty much done or back to work on the Mon/Tues. 2. Earlier youth will be good, warmer and less bucks that have dropped antler. 3. A 3 day doe season? Why? More regulations to confuse folks and if you can't kill a deer in the 9 day gun season. 4.No opinion on urban hunts. 5.CROSSBOWS?? Again, why? If you don't want to take the time to learn a weapon, maybe you don't need to be hunting. They aren't close to being a bow, they stay locked and loaded at all times, basically no movement to be ready to shoot. What happened to having some skill to be an archer? NO! 6.Reduce the antlered in

archery to 1 buck? How many kill more than one antlered deer in archery season? It doesn't really bother me, one buck is enough for me, though I commonly pass shots on 10 to 15 antlered deer in a season.

I agree with the proposed changes for deer management.

The proposed to changes to bring up herd populations seem well thought out. My father owns property in Missouri, as an Illinois resident, I would like to see lower nonresident costs.

Reduce the limit of antlered deer during the archery season to 1, bad decision. I don't rifle hunt, but spend a lot of time in the woods scouting and preparing to harvest a buck with my bow. If I am so blessed to do so before rifle season, should I then be penalized the rest of the season? The correct answer is "no". Also, we need to have a reciprocation law.

The only part I have issues with is reducing number of archery buck tags and making crossbows legal for everyone. I feel if crossbows are legalized for everyone we will have a lot of hunters who are not true archers in the woods taking risky shots at deer and this measure will just lead to more wounded deer and deer who die and go to waste. Another issue is nonresident hunters. They come up where I hunt and just do whatever they want with no respect to us locals I say raise the prices maybe that will weed out some of the problem.

One antlered any method and an early muzzleloader season like KY.

We are nonresident landowners, owning land in Putnam County, Mo., we agree with all the considered changes but one, the late antlerless season should be eliminated for the time being until deer populations stabilizes. We also feel that owning land and paying the same taxes as residents that we should have some consideration for lower cost deer permits.

I would like to see the regular firearms and antlerless portions both reduced days. I would not allow crossbows as regular means and would probably not change the youth portions at all. I have children hunt in the youth seasons for several years and they have always had opportunity at deer and most of the time at decent bucks! The only thing that I can see would benefit from allowing crossbows is the crossbow manufacturers!

I believe that the changes proposed are ill-conceived. I hunt both bow season and gun season, as well as my husband. We both work full-time jobs and enjoy our time off to hunt. 1) Including crossbows during bow season increases the danger of bow season. Compound bows take time and skill to use. Crossbows are easy to misfire and dangerous to other hunters hunting during bow season, as they are more like a gun. 2) I do agree that youth season should be lengthened either by including an additional weekend or a day. However, it must be considered that most children are in school. 3) Gun season should not be shortened. As previously stated, my husband and I LOVE to hunt. We both save up our leave to take off for as much of gun season as we can. By removing days from the season, you are reducing viable days that we could take off to hunt (as we cannot schedule during all hunt days presented in the new plan). 4) Reducing the amount of deer available to harvest is ridiculous. The amount of deer harvested each year remains consistent or lowers, while the deer population in Missouri remains consistent. Some families, such as ours, attempt to use the deer tags already permitted to provide our families with good

quality wild game meat to last us throughout the year. By lowering limits and durations of hunting seasons, you are limiting our ability to continue to do so.

I support all the proposed changes because I believe they are valid changes and in the best interests of Missouri hunters. I especially support the use of crossbows during archery season. This change will allow older hunters and those with shoulder/rotator cuff issues to continue hunting. It does not hinder the classic long bow hunter who wishes to continue using his method. Limiting to 1 buck during bow season is also highly recommended. A maximum of 2 bucks (1 bow/1 rifle) is more than fair. I don't believe reducing the firearms season a couple days will impede hunting opportunities significantly and moving the late youth season should give young hunters more opportunities, hopefully increasing the percentage of young hunters. I believe the MDC should eliminate the antlerless season altogether. The use of crossbows and additional youth season should increase antlerless deer harvest to offset an antlerless season. Local deer populations could be controlled by issuing more antlerless only permits during other seasons. I don't feel real strongly about the urban season being eliminated because it doesn't impact my hunting and I'm not sure it has much impact on the urban deer population.

1. I am not in favor of the addition of Crossbow to the Archery season as I feel this would open up the doors to more poaching. 2. I am in favor to allow only one antlered deer during archery 3. I am in favor for a reduction in the number of antlerless days to 3.

I like, or am okay with, everything except eliminating urban hunts (firearms), using a crossbow (archery), and limiting antlers deer taken to one (archery). I need a better explanation of the conservation area regulations.

I am for moving rifle season out of rut & also limit buck harvest to 1 per season no matter how you harvest it. I am 100% for the use of crossbow in archery season. You do an excellent job compared to some of our surrounding states. Thank you.

I do not support shortening the firearms portion to 9 days. I believe 11 days is the correct amount of time and allows for less hunter density per day during the firearms season. I also do not agree that the deer population should increase. I think the deer density in Crawford County has been maintained at the right level. The dates should remain the same as current. I feel the youth portion should remain the same as current, two days, prior to firearms portion of the deer season. I disagree on allowing crossbows during the archery season. Elderly hunters have the options to obtain a doctors statement and use a crossbow during archery season now. Crawford County, where I hunt and own a farm, does not have an antlerless portion, therefore I do not have an opinion on reducing the season to 3 days in December.

Yes I like the idea of the crossbow deer hunting because I have a seven year old daughter that I would like to take deer hunting and she is not strong enough to pull back a compound bow and I don't think she is old enough to handle a firearm.

I think it's a great idea. I think it will help more hunters get in our Missouri woods and experience the outdoors and once again thank you guys very much

1. Expand youth weekend NO - they have 2 chances already, plus during regular seasons. 2. Reduce length of antlerless firearms season to 3 days NO - what if it bad weather or working hunters can't take those 3 days off? Bad idea. 3. Allow crossbows as legal OK IF they cut the number of deer allowed down taken with crossbow. 4. Reduce limit of antlered deer during archery season from 2 to 1 YES, but make it ONLY ONE DEER of EITHER allowed.

Shorten gun season. Raise price of out of state tags are go to a drawing system. Cross bows for children and old people we owe it to both them generations. Two bucks per archery season for bow hunters. One big buck is tough to kill. Don't take some one chance if they got a chance at two. Average is one buck every three years anyway for a good hunter anyway. Eliminate urban gun, they can hunt like everybody else. Shorten all your gun seasons. Mo is out of control with over 30 days of gun hunting, firearms, muzzleloader, antlerless. That's RIDICULOUS! Out of state tags for Mo residents to hunt other states roughly 400 they can pay 400 to hunt my state. Equal. What's good for one is good for ALL.

I'm very thankful the department is finally addressing these very important issues that affect the herd. Over the past five years our hunting group has seen an overwhelming decrease in the herd population in Shelby county and even in St. Louis county as well. I think all the ideas are great except I would like to see the crossbow idea not implemented. It wouldn't bother me to see older hunters or injured hunters use them but opening the "flood gates" to any hunter with a crossbow isn't a good idea and I believe it would completely negate the other great ideas the dept. is proposing. The amount of opportunity to harvest a deer under the current regulations is far too great and produces too much pressure on the herd for too long of a time. I would like to see less pressure on the deer herd and produce more quality sits in the woods for all hunters especially our youth and apprentice hunters, who truly are the future of the sport we all love to participate in.

I like all the changes under consideration, I really like the one buck for archery I never did like the two bucks limit unless they had to harvest a doe first. Thanks!

Yes to crossbow for bow season and no to the 1 buck and the youth season for a week from Saturday to next Sunday that will have a better chance at a deer that is what we are here for the next generation to get involved in hunting.

I would like to see the state allow only one buck no matter what the weapon. I would also like to see the rifle season moved out of the rut to the beginning of December. I also would like to see Missouri go to a draw system for non-residents. Iowa, Illinois, and Kansas all have a draw for non-residents. These states surround Missouri and I cannot just go into those states and buy a tag over the counter but hunters from those states can come into Missouri and buy their tags over the counter. Doesn't seem right at all. Other than that, I think the proposed changes are good.

Hi I have been an archery hunter for years, but I am getting older and finding it difficult to pull my bow back at times. I probably would be borderline not being able to get a doctors permit for a crossbow, so I wouldn't waste my time with a Dr. visit. I would love to continue archery hunting, but not sure if I will be able. I think it would be a great idea to allow crossbows during archery season. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

I like most of the changes except the second youth hunt Thanksgiving weekend. I can see a lot of youth will not be able to hunt because of family obligations.

People who own land in Missouri and live in other states pay too high a price to hunt their own land. They pay taxes on that land in Missouri - I know you same other states do it - let's be courteous to the land owners.

Firearms Season Changes: I think you should maintain the current timing of the November portion but keep it at its current number of days. DO NOT reduce the length to 9-days. Don't expand the late youth portion to 3-days. I understand the reasoning for youth seasons but as someone who did just fine in my youth without youth seasons. I never agreed with the notion of youth seasons especially since they can shoot deer that don't meet the antler point restrictions or in spring turkey youth season they are allowed to hunt all day when they should have to quit at 1 pm just like in regular season. Don't reduce the length of the antlerless portion to 3-days instead only allow hunters to take 1 - 2 antlerless deer a season. Archery Season Changes: Allow crossbows as a legal method during the archery deer and turkey season. As a disabled veteran who can already use a crossbow, I agree with this as it would cut down on jumping through hoops for others who are disabled but if I could I would use a regular bow over a crossbow any day. It would be a good first step for youth and new comers to archery hunting. I find crossbows to be heavy, bulky and awkward to carry around, they are also a pretty much a 1 shot deal as you normally don't have time to get a second shot loaded and off. With this in mind, I don't think many will use them that don't have to so the impact on hunting won't be that big. Reduce the limit of antlered deer during the archery season to 1, this would be ok with me if it is needed for the moment as long as it could be increased back in the future.

I am for the proposed changes. I'm Missouri born and raised, I have hunted in Missouri off and on for over 40 years. Missouri has the opportunity to be the leading big buck state in the US. I would like to see Missouri gun season moved to later in the year. Ideally, end of Nov. first of December.

I agree with most proposals: Suggest keeping the youth January season due to kids getting new guns for Christmas and the weather is not always bad, sometimes snow helps. Suggest still adding the "after Thanksgiving" season for youth only. More hunting opportunities for parents with kids is best and a few additional deer kills shouldn't reduce the herd significantly. I need more opportunity for nice weather to take my young boys hunting. I really like the crossbow rule change. My son wants to hunt with a crossbow and I can't always pull my bow with my bum shoulder. I am a little concerned about the possibility of poaching with crossbows becoming easier though. Thank you

I am for all of the regulations except for the urban zone. I live in a part of south county that has woods that run all the way to the Merrimac river. The deer are very populated and need to be managed more. I normally hunt in southern Missouri but with the urban zone hunt it will help manage the population by my residence.

As a nonresident Missouri landowner and a 15 year Missouri deer hunter, I would like to offer my input on the proposed changes to the Missouri deer regulations as well as some suggestions

that should be considered. First of all, I believe that nonresident landowners should NOT be paying the high price of \$225 for a deer permit. We should be afforded the same rights as a resident land owner. On the property that I own, I spend thousands of dollars per year exclusively for the preservation of habitat for whitetail deer in Missouri. We plant food plots, we keep water holes open, we put out minerals and supplements for the health of the herd. I also pay property tax in the state to own the land. We set aside sanctuary on our land and we don't enter it for any reason. We believe that we contribute wholeheartedly to the health of the deer herd, over and above someone who just pops in from out of state and shoots deer. It isn't fair that I have to pay what other nonresident's pay. Quite frankly if the nonresident price continues to go up, it would force me and my young kids to stop hunting all together. We would no longer be able to afford it at which point I would sell our property to one of the local farmers who is desperately wanting to buy it, cut down the trees, till it up, and make it grazing land for cattle. In less than 12 months Missouri would lose a considerable chunk of prime deer habitat. Additionally, I would be priced out of hunting. With no place to go, I am certain my kids would grow up with hunting basically worked out of their systems and no longer a part of our tradition. DON'T make hunting something that only rich people can afford! If too many nonresidents are coming to the state and shooting all the deer, limit the number of permits for non landowning non residents. I support all efforts by biologists to manage the herd to a healthy level. I support the harvest of only mature animals so I applaud the regulation in Daviess county that we can only shoot deer that have at least 4 points on one side. I believe crossbow use should be limited to those over 65 years old or who have a Doctor's excuse that they cannot pull back a modern compound bow due to physical handicap. Thanks for giving us a say. I sincerely hope that you don't price our family out of hunting in Missouri. We currently live in Texas but already spend an enormous amount of money trying to continue to hunt on our own property. \$225 per license is almost too much for us to afford all of the family to legally hunt. If you raise the price, we will either have to fold, or stop our spending on the conservation efforts we make on our land. If you raise them too high, we will have to sell the land and get out of hunting all together. We are probably the type of people you definitely want hunting in Missouri. We work the land, invest in the herd, and we are good conservationists.

I would not support reducing the number of days for the Firearms Deer Hunting Season as this would take away from weekend days that hunters are allowed to actively hunt. The vast majority of hunters are working class citizens and cannot hunt weekdays. I would support expanding and changing the dates of the late youth portion. I would support reducing the length of the antlerless portion to 3 days if it were opened as a statewide season regardless of county lived in. Otherwise I believe it should be eliminated as it does not afford all Missouri hunters the same opportunity to harvest game. I would support eliminating the Urban Zone portion. I never really understood why it was created as the majority of hunters would not be able to participate anyway. I would support allowing crossbows as a legal method to take deer and turkeys during the Archery portions. I would not support reducing the number of antlered deer to 1 during the Archery

portion. That has always been the allure of going the extra mile to be involved in the Archery portion as it expanded the possibilities of getting extra chances to take antlered deer.

I am a disabled hunter. I use a crossbow have a valid medical permit. There's not a large area for those with disabilities to hunt in in the southeastern area. Being able to hunt with a crossbow gives those with disabilities a feeling of having our own method. We can't do the things others can or go where they can go so having crossbows for disabled hunters is having something that's ours and we don't have to compete with everyone else. If you want to make changes use the money from the land you sell the lumber right to make a few handicap only hunting areas in the south east in Butler county and the Mark Twain National Forest. Also, food for thought, why is there so many atvs in the forest when you can't drive them in the forest? How about ticketing those that bring them into the forest during deer season. You know that every camp you come to there's an atv but they don't drive them in the forest, come on. How about allowing those that are disabled to get permits to use atv or battery powered vehicles off road or start ticketing those that bring them into the forest period. Thanks disabled marine veteran.

Allow crossbows during the archery deer and turkey season and limit deer during archery season to 1 antlered and 2 antlerless. No changes to all other regulations.

Look, your " quantitative scientific" survey is wrong. You have no +/- accuracy. The data contradicts each other. You also do not listen to your field agents. Our family farm is around 1400 acres in Harrison county. Talking to the local agent in Harrison county, he said he gave you his input on the local deer herd. He told you the deer herd in the county is fine and there are great numbers of deer. From talking to him he said what you did was by Region setting the regulations for the 2014-15 season. Now from talking to Jason Sumners he, at the meetings, said it was not done by regions. Now I tend to believe the local agent more so than what we were told at the deer management meetings. The MDC has a YouTube video out that states "we have no idea what the deer population is" If you do not know what the population is and admit that you lost control of the county. How can you say that 1 doe per hunter with rifle unless he is a landowner? Now you also want to go back to a 9 day season and limit bucks to 1 with Archery. You also state that we went from 13% harvest to 19% total harvest with Archery. Have you thought that maybe the equipment is better? Also, maybe it needs to be 19 maybe even 20% the harvest. The deer numbers are FINE. Notice that the kill numbers went up. Just admit it this has nothing to do with the health of the deer herd. It is all driven by what people's perception is on the deer numbers. Never mind that most people have no freaking clue. Just admit it, most don't know. They walk around the woods all day see no deer and claim the numbers are in trouble. Ol saying is sometimes you see them sometimes you don't. If you want to make ANY changes at all. Move the Youth any deer season up to early October or end of September and get the Youth doe season out of January. Dumbest thing you guys can do is put a little kid in the freezing cold. That will really make him like hunting, won't it? Bottom line, only a little over 6% is public, Missouri is also 2nd to Texas in numbers of land owners. So when you do regulations you are effecting Private Land owners who also feed and house most of our deer. More Surveys to land owners, 9,000 is not enough!

Should limit out of state tags. I agree with all changes except one buck during archery which only harvest 19% of harvest and I feel crossbows should only be allowed during alternative season.

Would like to have seen all of this done via internet, with your conservation number. Most people can't make it to the meeting and thus their voice is not heard. This goes back to ten mile pond conservation area when they changed from drawing one pill per group to everyone in the group draw a pill, us guys that like to hunt alone or with one other hunter odds fell badly in drawing in to hunt so I pretty much stopped waterfowl hunting. (my understanding was a bunch of guys with clout cried loud enough that one and two hunters were getting in before the four of them so you guys changed it, thanks a lot) Same thing when you made changes on killing all the does, WHAT DID YOU GUYS THINK WOULD HAPPEN? Geeeez. Just like on Number 7 conservation area, we can't get a road put in to the back part of it to hunt the oxbows, why, because of the hunting clubs or what? We just wanted a road to get us farther back, they did it at Donaldson Point in New Madrid why can't we have a road to hunt farther back? I'm almost 61 years old with health problems and I love to hunt and take my grandkids, but we are limited, limited at TEN MILE POND and NUMBER 7, we need to be killing less does, and no deer 4 points or lower. But really I would love to see this all done via internet to let more voices be heard. Do a questionnaire by using your MDC number. I have no problem with hunting clubs however I have a problem when it looks like MDC is in favor of those guys and not the guy that has to depend on conservation ground. I sent a letter a few years back and got a response from a local agent it was, use the river, nothing about maybe this needs to be address or looked into, nope just use the river. Now we all know the river doesn't always rise and I really don't like boat riding in a swollen river. So see my respect is at a low right now. Anyway, sorry for rambling on. Hope you guys get it worked out for the deer herd. But I'm telling you, you guys lost water fowl hunters over the pill thing because dads and grandpas want to hunt and teach these kids one on one and ya took that away. And then there's the thing with 8,9,10 spots only being open until half the seasons gone. Then it jumps to 18,19,20 WHOA. Thank you Sir for your time. R.A.

Crossbows would be a great change, I have talked of this for a number of years. I feel it will increase participation of both younger and older people. We need the renewed effort to grow participation for Missourians and strengthen our base in the outdoors. I feel it would also be a financial gain for all.

I can accept, understand, and support all of the proposed deer regulations except the following: Crossbows should only be allowed during bow season for individuals who have a proven disability. This is my reason bow hunting requires discipline, practice, patience, outdoor skills, and many other qualities. Increasing the chances of success by changing the methods of the chase shows lack of respect for the discipline. Youngsters can learn to hunt with a true bow. Older folks need to get a doctors excuse to be able to forego using a bow. You would be hurting the bow hunting sport and tradition. I am highly against this change and think you should put some really serious consideration for bow hunting as it will no longer be bow hunting if you allow cross bows. Thank you for your time and consideration. J.L.

I agree with everything except the elimination of the Urban Zone portion.

I am in favor of all the proposed modifications listed above. The one I am most interested in is the full inclusion of crossbows as a valid weapon during archery. This simple "correction" to properly include crossbows in the full archery season has been long overdue. I have been a bow hunter for over twenty years. The bulk of that was using vertical recurve and compound bows. Due to back and shoulder issues I have been using a crossbow for the last 5yrs and I do not see any reason why a crossbow should not be an option for everyone. Both weapons require considerably practice to shoot confidently and make a clean kill. A vertical bow is much lighter to carry, quieter to shoot and I think a hair faster to get that second shot away, should it be needed. A crossbow is heavier, bigger (which means harder to handle in tight brush) but with the use of a crank, allows folks of smaller stature, disabled, or just simply not strong enough to draw and hold a compound bow. My wife and daughter regularly join me when I am target shooting in the yard and they have very respectable spreads. I am even able to sit with my 6yr old grandson and teach him the proper way to hold, aim and shoot a crossbow. I would love the opportunity to take all of them out for a good bow hunt, but that is only going to happen when crossbows are treated fairly and included in the entire archery season.

I am against all of the changes completely!

I would like to see the youth hunts the first two weekends in October (warmer temperatures for the youths), the firearm season change to 9 days is fine however would like it later maybe starting after Thanksgiving, I don't believe changing to only one antlered deer for archery will solve anything, not very many archers kill one. I know you probably don't have control over Lamine Conservation Area but I think it's horrible that a youth is not able to take an antlerless deer yet they have all the special hunts for antlerless deer.

I would like to see crossbows included in the full archery season the same way the regular bows are. I have tried to use a compound bow but even at their lowest weight, they are very difficult for me to use. I would not be comfortable hunting or even shooting a compound bow. My husband's crossbow is a totally different story. I can use a rope cocker to pull the string back to the shooting position or a can use his crank which would allow anyone to cock the bow, just takes a bit longer. Once cocked and an arrow loaded I can focus on the target and using the right triangle in the scope I can hit the target pretty good out to 30yds or so. It is such a great feeling being able to shoot as an equal alongside my boys. If crossbows are properly included as part of the archery season it will provide a lot more opportunities for women and young people to get involved in hunting.

I believe some management changes should be made. That being said, I believe the wrong type have been proposed. First, shortening the regular firearms season is just going to provoke hunter to be less ethical and "shoot the first thing they see" versus waiting for more mature deer. Secondly, changing archery season to only one buck permit may be okay but how many buck permits are filled according to amount sold? Also, archery season is archery season. If a person is capable of toting, cocking, hunting with, and shooting a crossbow, most likely they could do the same thing with a vertical bow. If crossbows are allowed then standard high powered centerfire

rifles might as well be allowed during alternative methods portion of deer season. Efforts should be directed to more accurate methods of tagging deer due to the ease of dishonesty telecheck has created. Even though it's convenient it's almost too convenient. I believe limiting the number of doe tags was a step in the right direction, as many farmers know if you want to grow a herd of any sort the more females able to breed and reproduce the faster a herd will grow; common knowledge. If you look at neighboring northern Missouri counties and even neighboring northern states that have used point restrictions on deer this dramatically increased the number of antlered bucks reaching maturity. I experienced this first hand this past season where I spent the opening weekend of rifle season in Livingston County Missouri. I saw more buck in those two days than in the past two years of deer hunting our 800 acre private farm in Howell County Missouri. All of this being said I believe antler restrictions would benefit us much more than a shortened season. Also the urban deer zones need to be dealt with. These areas have such high deer population that it's become a safety hazard to motorists. I believe involvement in this has been low due to the difficulty in finding access which could be dealt with by maybe allowing land owners in these areas to sign up on a list for hunters to look at and then contact these landowners to make arrangements.

I know this is long but please read, thanks. Being involved with conservation and hunting ever since I can remember and now having two daughters of my own, I feel that now is the time more than ever I voice my concern over the future of hunting regulations in Missouri. I started out as most kids, heading to the woods with my dad hoping to harvest any deer no matter how big or small. As time went by, I began to realize that hunting is more than just killing a deer to tell your friends about or to "fill the freezer". I consider hunting a way of life and way to treat nature with respect. Over the last 10 years, I have seen the quality of hunting decline, for the most part, each and every year. Yes, more people may be getting involved in hunting, but I'm sad to see (from personal experiences) that a majority of these "new" hunters are not being taught the correct way and have little respect for the conservation part of hunting. I spend hundreds and hundreds of hours planting food plots, checking trail cameras, and lastly hunting in a way to benefit the herd. I have hunted hard every year since I was around 10 years old and have only harvest 2 mature bucks (4.5 years old or older) in my lifetime. Up until this year, I had not seen a mature buck in 6 years and I spend a lot of time in the woods! I would like to think that someday my daughters would have a good opportunity to harvest a trophy buck, but each year I realize unless changes are made, the chances will always be slim to none. I have started hunting in a neighboring state with a friend and have seen at least 1 mature buck each season for the last 7 or 8 years (haven't been fortunate to get an ethical shot to this point). First of all, I agree 100% with shorting the length of firearms season. In my opinion, this is a must. It is almost impossible for a 1.5, 2.5, or 3.5 year old buck to survive the rut with 10 consecutive days of hunting pressure during firearms season (not to mention muzzleloader season). Ideally, 7 days of firearms season with a week in between (much like Illinois) would greatly increase the survival rates of these younger deer, but cutting a couple days is a great start. Secondly, getting youth another day to hunt would be great. Two other topics that MUST be addressed/changed are the use of crossbows and buck limits. To

me, allowing the use of crossbows is a MUST. Some people feel that they are more dangerous, easier to use considering it "cheating" or not fair because it not "real" archery. Here is my response: Hunting is NOT a competition against other hunters and using crossbows should NOT be looked at as an attempt to gain an advantage for whatever reason. Crossbows would give EVERYONE an EQUAL opportunity to archery hunt no matter what age or physical/other limitations. The SIMPLE truth is that the purpose of hunting is to manage a deer herd. Crossbows are a great and ethical archery method that in no way should be compared to "gun" hunting. With crossbows, statistically, there should be less wounded animals and hunters can be more confident in shots they are taking. Honestly, as much as I hunt, with a full time job and 2 small children I find it almost impossible to put in enough practice time with my compound needed to feel 100% confident in any shot I would have while hunting. BOTTOM LINE: Using crossbows would increase ethical kill shots and leave less wounded animals in the woods to suffer injuries. Lastly, limiting the number of bucks to 2 (1 archery, 1 firearm) MUST happen, no question. I don't have a large tract of land to hunt and don't hunt in Northern Missouri, so without these changes going statewide I feel sick to my stomach with the direction Missouri deer hunting/"killing" is going. If I were in position to make changes, here's what I'd do. 1. Allow crossbow hunting to increase harvest efficiency and clean "kills". 2. A 9 day consecutive firearm season starting the LAST weekend in NOVEMBER. 3. Limit total yearly buck harvest to 2 (1 archery, 1 firearm) and total deer harvest to 4 (unless owning 100 acres or more). I know a lot of people won't agree with what I have to say, but whether they'll admit it or not, it's because they feel they have the right to hunt how they want to hunt. At some point, someone has to stop and say "It's time to do things the RIGHT way and not just the way WE WANT." Let's put some regulations in place that protect the herd, increase mature deer, and allow current and future generations the opportunity to say, "I'm lucky enough to hunt/manage deer in Missouri where the conservation department has made it possible to have the hunt of a lifetime every year." I'm not just commenting to ramble. I have a doctorate degree in pharmacy but hunting is my passion. I keep myself just as informed with wildlife management as I do my job. Sometimes I wish I didn't care as much as I do about hunting, but like I said earlier, it's a way of life. I really hope someone at the department values my educated opinion that can help other people see why we hunt beyond our own enjoyment/satisfaction. I truly want to believe that Missouri (the entire state) can be a trophy whitetail opportunity. My email is * and it would be great for some feedback knowing that my opinion is valued (other than an automated message). Thanks and God bless!

Please, do NOT extend youth hunting, especially into the Thanksgiving holiday. I am a hiker and have walked in Missouri all my life. My father was a quail hunter. When I was young, I didn't shoot a gun in the woods, but I did not object to others doing so. But all the added days and types of hunts over the years, particularly the youth hunts, have frightened me out of the woods once deer season begins. The idea of a high-powered rifle in the hands of a kid in the woods scares the heck out of me. The practice aimed at promoting hunting for the next generation, is clearly one hunters love. But should hunters rule the woods in one of the most beautiful and tick-free times

of year? Common sense and fairness tell me no. Try surveying NON-hunters about how much they want to see more kids aiming guns their way as they try to enjoy fall in Missouri's beautiful forests. Let's stop turning over Missouri every fall to the hunters with lethal guns and give back our land to the walkers, birders, photographers, and naturalists. Please. S.L., St. Louis, MO

Agree with everything except adding crossbows to the archery season. Suggest making out of state permit harder to obtain to regulate them more.

The only thing I disagree with is the one buck during archery season.

Years ago I was one of many that ask for a muzzleloading season, then the inline came out. We are asking AGAIN for a primitive season! This means NO inlines! We hunt primitive, no scopes, open sights, cap or flintlock. The last time I was picked for Peck Ranch my best friend and I were the only two out of 150 or more that hunted with a flintlock and it rained. We both killed deer that day. Please give us a primitive hunt at Peck Ranch. Our group puts on the longest consecutive running Blackpowder Rendezvous in the state of Missouri. The Crowley's Ridge Blackpowder Club. Our Rendezvous is April 18th & 19th 2015 at Greenville Mo. PS. NOT happy with the alternative season! Thank you.

I am 49 years old and have hunted deer since I was 12. I have five sons who also deer hunt. They range in age from 9-26. All of them have harvested deer, the youngest one took his first deer at age 7. I would like to see crossbows allowed in the regular archery season. Currently my youngest two sons are limited in the time they get to deer hunt. 4 days during youth seasons plus maybe a couple days during gun season. They are both very good marksman and enjoy being in the woods. Just seeing deer is an exciting experience. Allowing crossbows in archery season would open up a tremendous amount of opportunity for younger kids. Personally, my favorite time to deer hunt is early fall. It's not as cold, there are not as many people in the woods, it's safer, and the deer are usually not spooked. It would be great to able to spend this time with my boys. Harvesting a deer once in a while is a good thing, but teaching my kids the joys of nature and making memories is worth whole lot more.

The proposed changes seem logical and well thought out. I am not sure the reduction in antlered deer by bow is fair to the bow only hunters, but it appears to be well thought through. An earlier youth season was a great idea. I always worry about taking my daughter out later in the year and being confident a child will not let the excitement of the day prevent them from telling you they are cold until there is a real problem.

Need to lengthen gun season instead of shorten, extending youth portion is great, and as for bow season, needs to run at least to end of January

I like the idea of reducing the firearms season along with the antlerless portion. I'm not too sure on the one buck rule during archery. Not that I've ever had the chance to kill more than one but I like having that option. What about a two buck limit period. Leave it similar to what it is now but instead of having buy two archery any deer sell one then if a person doesn't connect during firearms season on a antlered deer allow that to be used during the late archery season.

I'm a land owner (5 acres) with way too many deer! They are very destructive to my yard and landscape. I'm OK with everything that you are proposing except the reduction of archery antler deer permits to one. I do very much favor the addition of the cross bow to the archery season!

I would like to start out by saying that I am a strong advocate of MDC. Always have been. Thanks for providing public access, and for the most part, reasonable and easy to understand and follow regulations. Muzzleloader Season - Limit legal weapons to muzzleloading firearms only! No centerfire cartridges, no airguns, no crossbows, no archery. The alternative name for the muzzleloader season has become the "7 millimeter muzzleloader season". The move beyond the original intent from muzzleloaders to the many alternatives is absurd. A Thomson Center Contender in a rifle caliber is well beyond the limits! Kansas and Colorado have way better models of what the muzzleloader season should look like. A line has to be drawn somewhere. Colorado is very conservative, but I would favor their regulations over the "almost anything goes" regulations Mo. has evolved to. 4-pt. Rule. I reiterate my extreme displeasure with the 4-pt rule as it presently stands. Landowners should not be restricted by this rule. The MDC should enforce this ruling on their properties and management areas only. Youth Hunts - the intent of youth hunts was initially to recruit new hunters. If statistics are analyzed I am confident that the number of hunters actually recruited during the youth deer seasons is miniscule! I applaud the department for taking a more realistic approach with the special rabbit, squirrel, and small game hunts. My observations from the perspective of a retired public school teacher indicate that there is actually very little hunter MDC-initiated recruitment from non-hunting families in suburban schools, where the greatest numbers are located, maybe even from rural schools. Urban core should not be overlooked, but it is almost impossible to obtain life-long hunters from people who have grown up in large urban areas. In summation: I am against extending the youth deer season for two primary reasons. 1. Recruitment resources could/should be redirected to activities that are more productive. 2. As a landowner, I am fed up with weeks on end of deer seasons where I have to protect my property from trespassers and watch my local herd get picked away by very efficient hunters during special seasons and liberal regulations regarding allowed equipment. Keep up the excellent work and remember, "if it isn't broke, don't fix it".

I support cross bow and I might now actually bow hunt. The other proposed changes seem reasonable. I am very opposed to increasing out of state hunting fees. I have many family/friends who come from out of state and have for 15 years but with the cost of transportation, time off of work, cost of permits, deer processing charges, etc. is becoming burdensome. In fact, two of the hunters have stopped coming for those specific reasons. Their contributions to our economy with hotels, food, refreshments and trips to the stores and small town shops are important to our rural wellbeing. It is important the MCD is a partner in rural economic development and increasing out-of-state hunting fees has the opposite impact. If anything, lower them!

1. Start Gun Season later, following the rut. 2. Good idea for the youth season. 3. Good idea for the antlerless season. 4. Crossbows OK, hunters should be able to choose their weapon of choice. 5. Yes, reduce antlered deer permit to one per person, no matter what weapon they choose. 6.

Declassify coyote as a fur-bearer, remove all seasons and shoot on sight, these predators are responsible for the death of more deer then people realize!

I support all mentioned proposed changes to firearms season. I support crossbow as legal during archery, but I do not favor only 1 buck for all archery season. I support the simplification of conservation area regs when as it applies to deer hunting.

I hate to see any change I the fall archery season! Missouri has a great archery season! If it ain't broke don't try to fix it! I don't want to see crossbows, this will put too many people in the woods it's already too hard to find a place to hunt safely. I don't know of anyone who wants to hunt with a crossbow that can't just get a doctor signature! The best way if any change, put a point limit on bucks, 8pt. I see too many small deer taken. This is just my opinion take it as you will but you will find a lot of bowhunters feel the same way, Sincerely, T.R.

As a school teacher, I depend upon the week of Thanksgiving as an opportunity to take my children hunting with a firearm. Removing two days from the season will hinder my children, and others who depend on that week as their hunting opportunity, at a legitimate chance to harvest a deer. As for the crossbow item, it is my opinion that hunting with a crossbow is not a legitimate means of archery hunting. Much of the challenge in archery hunting is getting drawn back while remaining undetected. To be able to just aim and shoot without the challenge of drawing back is no different than gun hunting at a closer range in my opinion. On the issue of the youth season dates being moved to immediately following Thanksgiving, I am in full support.

Allowing crossbows without the written permission of a doctor is a bad idea. This would put crossbows in the hands of youths. I think bow hunting is for seasoned hunters. Due to the fact that bows have no knock down power. As a father myself, I will wait until my children are experienced enough to take a deer without wounding it.

Agree with all changes except: Leave antlerless season at 12 days. Do not allow crossbows for archery except for handicap use.

I have been hunting for as long as I can remember, and I have hunted about every critter worth eating at some time or other. I do not see any issue with any of the proposed changes, but I am particularly interested in the crossbow proposal. I was a "vertical" bow hunter for a short while until I broke my wrist and was no longer able to pull and hold a bow. Since that time I have had a lifetime crossbow permit and have been using a crossbow. I have never understood why crossbows were excluded from the archery season. Both weapons use arrows, limbs, strings, and have similar effective ranges. Crossbows are much louder, heavier and harder to reload. The one big advantage the crossbow has, is it allows people to hunt that might not be able to physically pull and/or hold a vertical bow at full draw. Anything that helps encourage more young folks to get into the woods is a step in the right direction. That is also the reason behind the longer and earlier second youth hunt right?

I oppose reducing the archery antlered deer limit to one. I grew up in Missouri and return annually to hunt. I have seen the cycle of deer populations and deer management. I too understand the issues facing deer management in other states, such Iowa and Illinois. Reducing the limit to 1 would seriously affect my consideration on returning annually to hunt with family

and friends, thus reducing economic benefits and maintaining heritage and traditions. It may also reduce hunting as a viable mainstream activity as other family and friends may opt out. BTW, whatever happened to considering reduced non-resident costs for those past residents returning to hunt with family and friends. I was mailed that questionnaire and have never seen any results. It appears the issue is deer populations at or below management goals. Harvest of a second buck after the November firearms season is likely to minimally impact the population as bucks have breed does. Also, the 4-pt restriction does not necessarily mean archers target exclusively the "most fit" individuals. Many 2 1/2 yo deer meet the point restrictions and harvest of one of these would likely not further do any biological harm. The issue, as well as in other states, seems to be doe harvest. Perhaps your emphasis should be on recommending changes that deal with this sector.

Leave the regular gun season opening as it is. Shortening the season to 9 days would be ok. Expanding the late youth season to 3 days would be fine since most youth hunters are off school the Friday after Thanksgiving. Reducing the antlerless portion to 3 days would be fine. Although I do not participate in the urban season, eliminating the urban season might create an abundance of deer in urban areas and I fear deer/vehicle accidents may rise. I have faith the MDC would stay on top of this and make changes if needed. I am totally behind legalizing crossbows for everyone during bow season and turkey season. I do believe making this move would increase the deer taken numbers before the regular gun season and would get additional hunters in the woods during the nicer fall weather. Limiting the number of antlered deer during archery season is a good idea and would require hunters to be a bit more selective before releasing the arrow. I have my own private land for hunting so I really cannot comment on the conservation areas regulations.

Crossbow is a bow. Lower non-resident to \$50.00. Hunters will spend thousands in food, hotel, etc. Boon for our economy. Tax hunting leases and use money to purchase public land. Allow two bucks with long or recurve bows. Incentivize hunters to use more difficult methods. Increase limits of game for muzzleloading shotguns, rifles and pistols. Earn game animal by killing overstocked predators.

Eliminate, late youth, antlerless portion, urban, allow crossbows It will allow more people to bow hunt. Change archery to one buck, raise nonresident to \$350, cut the number of antlerless permits

I support all of the changes under consideration.

I believe that the putting a limit non-antler deer would benefit the increasing deer population more they anything else in this. By limiting non-antler deer we allow the female deer to increase population be able to breed more, therefore letting them breed and increasing all deer population. yet you will be able to keep the hunters interested in the sport or possibly increase people's interest in the sport.

I believe that this is not a good idea. This will make many people very unhappy. I think that things are fine the way they are. Do not make any changes.

I don't consider myself a "real" hunter but during deer season I do go at least once. So with that, the changes don't have an effect on me as much as they would a person who is a hardcore hunter. Although, I don't think they should expand youth season because that limits the deer for the rest of us in the county.

I don't think this is a good idea. You're going to make a lot of hunters very unhappy.

I am up in the air with the idea of using crossbows during bow season. Maybe a trial run with it wouldn't hurt. To get a better idea of how much the harvest number will rise for bow season. I hunt near the Iowa line, and have always seen a high number of deer in my area. This past year, not so much. Very few bucks were seen, and low numbers of deer all together, worst year for my family in a very very long time. I think a 3 day doe season during rifle season is a good idea maybe for a few years and I also think one buck and one doe during bow season is enough for any hunter at this time when numbers of deer are low. I have talked about this with several hunting friends and I don't think the public would disagree. Thanks for letting me give my opinions.

I think this is the wrong approach to this "problem", instead of shortening the season, I think there should be a longer season with antler restrictions and a limited antler-less tags you are able to buy. I also don't think it is a good idea to bring crossbows to the physically able during alternative season, you might as well allow center fire high powered rifles.

I like the longer youth season and the shorter antlerless season.

I believe that because of these changes in deer management that it will only increase poaching. Limiting the days of rifle season will only make people want to kill the first thing they see, instead of waiting on mature bucks. I think we should start a point limit in order to increase the mature bucks instead of killing little spikes and never giving them a chance to mature. Taking away a doe tag will increase the number of deer around the state, even where they are limited. the changes that are being made will only make things worse not better, taking the peoples thoughts into consideration would be appreciated.

I feel that the change in regulations will not help our deer population. Shortening hunting seasons will increase the amount of poachers drastically due to not enough time to kill the desired deer. Shortening season may also result in more kills of pre-mature deer due to the realization of a shorter hunting season. I feel that a more effective regulation would be to use a antler number regulation, meaning only a certain amount of antlers are considered legal kills.

I believe shortening the regular deer season is going cause hunters to be less ethical on their hunting methods. There are going to be immature deer killed because hunters aren't going to want to wait for more mature deer. Yes making the youth deer season longer is a good idea but I'm not too excited about the regular deer season. I don't really like the idea of the deer tag thing either.

I DO NOT support any of the proposed changes. I am especially opposed to the changes in archery hunting. Crossbows DO NOT belong in archery season. This is simply a market grab by manufacturers to sell more of their product. If you DO NOT allow crossbows during archery

there is no reason to change the buck harvest. Without the 1 buck after rifle season I will not have any reason to hunt for the balance of the season. Effectively, I get robbed of TWO MONTHS of hunting time because manufacturers want to sell more crossbows. NO NO NO

I am not a fan of making crossbows an acceptable method for all archery hunters. If the goal of this is to encourage bow hunters to continue to bow hunt later in life, rather than removing the medical exception completely, an alternative solution could be to remove the medical exception for anyone 50 or older or 55 and older. In this way, the value of traditional bow hunting can be maintained without jeopardizing/reducing the number of traditional bow hunters. If crossbows become open for all archery hunters, then I would be in favor of reducing the number of archery bucks to 1. However, if crossbows are not open for all archery hunters, I still think the current limit of 2 bucks is fine. I would not be in favor of reducing the antlerless or regular season timeframes.

Being an archer for the last 45 years, I see nothing wrong with using a crossbow. I had to go to a crossbow two years due to a duty related injury. Many people think a crossbow is basically a 30-06 with an arrow. It is not; you must know your yardage and wait for a good open shot just like a vertical bow. I would hope including crossbow would maybe get a few more people interested in archery hunting. I would set minimum poundage of around 150 to ensure good knock-down and penetration.

Bravo! Thank you Jason and Emily. Keep up the great work. You give hope to a long time Missouri deer hunter. I hope the commission works with you on these changes and hope that someday the firearms season will be moved to the end of Nov. or first of Dec. Once again, thank you so much.

I agree with all proposed changes to the deer regulation.

I have no problem with the proposed changes to the Deer Hunting Regulations. If I were to add anything, I would allow Black Powder Cartridge Rifles to be used during the Alternative Methods portion, (formerly known as the Muzzle Loader portion; later the Primitive Weapons portion). These single-shot firearms, such as the Sharps, are comparable in range, accuracy, and efficiency to today's modern muzzle loaders. This would give those of us that own and shoot these antique design firearms another opportunity to enjoy them.

I am against the reduction of the season to 9 days. I feel this is being done to allow a calming time for the second youth if it is moved to three days after rifle season ends. Why the reduction? Some people are not able to hunt until towards the end of the season or in the antlerless season. No reduction in antlerless season. Archery season changes ok, I might could hunt if I could shoot a crossbow. One antlered ok especially in areas where there needs to be more antlerless animals harvested. Non-resident could be lowered to 200.00.

As an avid archer I'm fervently against the idea of allowing crossbows during archery season. Hunting an animal with a bow requires both practice and patients. It isn't something that most do halfheartedly. Also if part of the intent of reducing the number of antlered deer for archery is to increase the size and population then to allow anyone to use a crossbow seems to completely defeat the purpose. I don't have an issue with only being allowed to take one antlered deer as that

will tend to make bow hunters more selective. I am also not against allowing those that are disabled the opportunity to use a crossbow for archery. I find it hard to believe that a survey of archers said that the majority were in favor of allowing crossbows. If the survey went to all hunters I could see that as gun hunters would use it as an opportunity to hunt more. Allowing anyone to use a crossbow from September through January would dramatically increase the number of deer taken from archery tags. Reducing the November portion of the gun season will do little to change the overall deer harvest. The opening weekend there are many many hunters in the woods. By the last two days that number has dropped off by a huge portion. One thing I will say is that the number one contributing factor to having fewer deer with large racks is that the rifle season is during the rut. If the rifle season was moved out of the rut then it would drastically increase the chances of survival for antlered deer and allow them to grow into larger and more mature deer. I know this isn't on the proposed changes at this time but as I am only stating my opinion I thought I would put it out there. In reference to the below question I think that the non-resident deer permit should be more. Those of us that hunt out of state pay a premium to hunt those states and if we could make the correct changes to allow for bigger more mature animals (i.e. moving the gun season to December instead of during the rut) then others would be willing to pay the premium to come here and support our conservation. Right now we do not draw the big spenders from states such as Illinois and Iowa but that could be remedied with the correct changes. Thanks for the opportunity to state my opinion.

First I would like to know if these changes are being considered because of over harvest or loses of Deer to CWD EHD. The MDC has already reduced the number of tags we can get last season 2014, my thought is that with reducing the length of the general season will have no effect on hunters most of us are weekend only hunters anyway but cutting the antlerless season to only 3 days seems excessive. I count on that season to fill the freezer for my family will there still be an alternative methods season and how long will that be? Youth season is okay with me never understood the January hunt anyway burrrr. I don't hunt the urban zones, it's too hard to find a place to hunt so get rid of it. Archery I'm good with the one buck only but maybe add a doe tag. You gave unlimited bonus tags anyway so make it 3 deer on archery tag. Yes to crossbows, it's about time. Maybe if the MDC did not cull all those deer in the CWD zone the heard would be more numerous. Colorado has had CWD since the sixties and they are still hunting deer out there. Thanks for listening.

I do not want less days for the regular deer season. We had a record harvest this past year which tells me we have record herd numbers and I am afraid if we cut the days down to hunt the deer will become overpopulated. I don't want to lengthen the youth season. What we have for the youth gives them a good enough head start on the adults. I don't want to reduce the antlerless season or number of deer killed. Again we are borderline overpopulated. I agree with crossbows being allowed in archery season. Other states allow it and there has been no adverse effects, and there are some older hunters and disabled hunters that would take advantage of this option without having to have a doctor's note. Thanks, D.B.

There is no reason to reduce the antlered deer taken in bow season. In actuality it is the taking of does that reduces the population. A buck taken in the late season has already bred and a doe taken then also. When you kill the doe you kill two. I would like to see a longer rifle season, without an increase in the number of deer allowed. My sons and I own a farm in Branson and have to come a long way to hunt. Arranging time from work and school is hard. I suspect there are a lot of persons in our position.

1. Maintain the current timing of the November portion and reduce the length to 9-days. I don't understand how reducing the number of days by 2 is going to do much. Most deer, if you look at the numbers, are killed on the weekends. The last two days are minimal on the whole and you are taking away days for guys that work on the weekends to hunt. Yes, back in 1995 when it was extended it was to have two more days to kill more deer, but it was also to appease the guys that have to work on the weekends. I think you will be better served on deer herd health by moving the gun portion to the first week of December (Although, I don't like that either, but some concession can be made) than reducing the number of days. If you move gun season to December and out of the rut there will be less pressure on mature bucks when they are breeding does. I have also noticed a lot of mature bucks are going completely nocturnal which shows the amount of pressure constantly on them. 2. Expand the late youth portion to 3-days beginning the first Friday after Thanksgiving. Stupid, stupid, stupid, stupid, stupid, stupid. You guys don't learn. Keep the bigger seasons away from holidays. Why can't you figure that out. Yes, antlerless season went through Thanksgiving, but that is completely different. As at that time most people are tired from regular season and go at their own leisure. I would have thought from all the flack you got previously and from this year by putting the early youth season over Halloween you would be able to think, "Maybe this is just as bad or worse." On top of the fact that the last time the first youth season was over Halloween we were told you would never do that again. Well you did it again for some stupid reason. Maybe you just forgot. But I am telling you **KEEP THE YOUTH SEASONS AND MAIN FIREARM SEASON OUT OF HOLIDAYS.** It causes a lot of issues with family time. Main season would be the dumbest of all. You are going to make a lot of wives very mad. Youth seasons can be just as bad because your wife is saying, "You aren't going anywhere we have our dinner with blah blah blah and blah blah blah." While your kid is going, "Dad, I want to hunt." Naturally you do what keeps your wife happy. Thanksgiving is more than just that Thursday. It is the whole weekend for most families. 3. Reduce the length of the antlerless portion to 3-days and begin on the first Friday in December. Here is your fix to #2. Flip the late youth season with this. Put Antlerless season over Thanksgiving. It gives times for the bucks to calm down from regular gun season so the kids have a better chance to kill a buck. Like I said above, the antlerless season is more a leisure activity or people that couldn't get off for regular season. As for reducing it to three days, I agree with that. 4. Eliminate the urban zones portion. Why? What does it hurt? This is a new one. There isn't a lot of deer killed during the urban portion. The only argument I could see against it is there isn't a lot of good places to hunt during this portion, so it may not be doing a lot of good anyway. You need more special bow hunts closer to the towns. 5. Allow crossbows as a legal

method during the archery deer and turkey season. I'm on the fence with this one. I don't have a clear opinion either way. I know if you allowed crossbows I would seriously consider getting one. Whether I got one or not, I am not sure. I would recommend reducing antlerless tags if you open crossbows. The currently unlimited probably will need to be reduced to two or three. The purist hunters want to have vertical bows only. Of course then you have the purist of the pure saying that compounds shouldn't be used either. So, it just depends to what level you want to regulate it. There are pros and cons to crossbows and compounds. I would say that it is slightly easier to hunt with a crossbow than a compound and you will have an influx of weekend warriors. That probably concerns me more than anything is if you opened crossbows how many people will it bring it that thing they can shoot a crossbow 10 times and then go hunting. I've thought in the past that you should have a regulation as such: Children under 18 (16 year olds aren't always fully developed to pull a bow), people with disabilities, and adults over 60 can use crossbows. The big thing for me is just making it easier for kids to hunt. 6. Reduce the limit of antlered deer during the archery season to 1. I'm fine with this. It is incredibly hard to kill one after gun season anyway. If I were to suggest something it would be to have 1 any deer tag for archery, 1 for regular guns season, and 1 for muzzleloader season. I liked it better back in the day when muzzleloader season had its own tags. That is more revenue for you guys anyway. That could be the way you balance out lowering out of state tags is make alternate season a separate tagged season like it was for years. 7. Simplify conservation area regulations by limiting methods and use of firearms and archery antlerless permits. I didn't know this was an issue. I don't deer hunt them much, so this doesn't affect me much. The conservation land is your land. You can do as you wish on them. You guys typically do a great job anyway on those places. If you want to limit activities based on that areas deer herd or relative position to a city that is your call not ours in my opinion. Yes, technically it is "public" land, but really it is yours to manage how you want. We may complain. My usual complain is the timing of when you do your prescribed burns. I do turkey hunt your land sometimes. When you do a prescribed burn 1 or 2 weeks before turkey season it tends to make me mad. On the whole they are great, but the timing isn't always great.

8. Out of state tag cost. The people who usually complain are A) people that used to live here and now have to pay over \$200 for a tag instead of the usual \$17 B) people that don't want out of state people here anyway C) guide services who want more people from out of state. I think your everyday hunter really doesn't care much but on the whole, but if pressed would rather keep out of state people away from their local deer herds. Then you have the people that just don't want anybody, most of the time it is a small town guy that doesn't want city people or out of state people period. Guide services and guys that lease land want lower costs because it will increase their revenue. My opinion is keep the costs where they are or even increase them, but I have thought if you are a natural born Missouri resident you shouldn't have to pay out of state fees. I've suggested if you have a Missouri social security number or you are a current resident of the state you shouldn't have to pay out of state fees. 9. Other opinions: Telecheck is very cheap for you to run. I understand that, but you need to find some way of having people verify the deer they killed. There aren't enough checks on what the deer is they are checking in. I am a

proponent of bringing back the check in stations, but that may be too costly. With technology being what it is I don't think it is too much to ask for a person to submit a picture of the deer they are checking in with the telecheck number on a piece of paper with the deer. You will get a lot of flak from older hunters, but it isn't too much to ask. Rack rule. Either make it state wide or do away with it completely. I don't really care either way. It is not fair for us northerners to have it and the Ozark guys don't.

I support all of the changes except limiting archery hunters to one buck. I strongly believe that limiting archery hunters to one buck for the 4 month archery season will greatly reduce the amount of time archery hunters will hunt. This reduction in time in the field will impact the revenues generated by archery hunters in small and medium towns. I believe the present archery regulation allowing two bucks should remain unchanged. The amount of bucks taken during archery season pales in comparison to the other deer seasons.

Firearms season proposals: If you really want to increase the number of deer and particularly larger bucks--move the firearms season completely out of the month of Nov. to Dec. such as Iowa. Moving it to Dec. means that basically the rut is over, majority of does are bred, and bucks are back to the feeding, resting mode. I'm sure gun hunters would object, but look at what has happened for deer hunting in Iowa. It is the preferred deer hunting state for big bucks! 2. I am adamantly opposed to allowing crossbows in the archery season. The rationale behind your thinking is heavily flawed! First, a 40 lb. compound bow with 85% let-off requires youngsters or "oldsters" to hold 6 lbs. Anyone not capable of that probably isn't going to be interested in bowhunting anyway. Besides, the NASP school program is going to be much more instrumental in bringing young people into bowhunting than allowing them to carry a 8 to 15 lb crossbow into the woods! Older folks that are not physically capable of shooting a conventional bow, already have the ability to get a Dr.'s statement that allows them to use a crossbow. The guys I have encountered in the woods using crossbows on disability permits are carrying 30 lb climbing tree stands on their backs or under their arms hundreds of yards into the woods, and most of them are 20 years younger than this 63 year old, bad knees, 58# longbow shooter that still hangs stands and removes them practically each day of hunting. If you think the 19% ratio of bucks killed in archery season now warrants a reduction of buck tags, what will it be like when you allow crossbows in archery season. The manufacturer's own representatives talk about the ability of a novice to group arrows out to 75 yards with a day or two of practice. In the fine print they then say, we don't recommend shooting at animals at that distance. What kind of fools do they take us for? In this day and age longer is perceived to be better. Woods skills are being lost at an alarming rate, replaced by lighted, beeping arrow nocks, cross guns, I even saw a new arrow or crossbow bolt with a broadhead that shoots a bullet at the point of impact with an animal. I feel your mentoring program, outdoor women workshops, NASP, family outdoor events, and mandatory bowhunter education will accomplish your goal of introducing more people to archery than simply caving in to the interests of the crossbow manufacturers. Their interests are in selling \$1100 bows, plus \$500 more worth of accessories. The guys who fought so hard to get an archery season in Missouri (like Earl Hoyt Jr and others) would throw up their hands in

disgust at the very thought of allowing the crossgun in archery season. My own son killed his first archery deer at 14 with a longbow. Prior to that he hunted rabbits, squirrels, frogs, and fish with compounds and recurves from the age of 8 or 9. I began bowhunting in 1976 at age 25 with a Herters recurve, then for 3 years with a compound before returning to a recurve in 1984, then a longbow in 1993. Still use the same longbow 22 years later, accounting for deer, turkey, fish, frogs, squirrels, rabbits, etc. I grew up in a suburb of Kansas City and did not come from a hunting family. Don't destroy our archery season for the sake of the almighty dollar. We have the best conservation department and system, including CFM, UBM, NWTF, DU, QU, and many others. Let's work together at promoting and teaching wood craft, habitat value and improvement, not selling out to a self-serving industry.

Maintain the current timing of the November portion and reduce the length to 9-days. The two days during the week of Thanksgiving are critical to hunters that wish to take that week off to be with family and hunt. I believe the current 11 days is where it should be. If you want to increase the herd add more antler restrictions or just change when you can take a doe. For instance, you can only shoot does on Saturday or Sunday, or for the first 5 days of the season.

Reduce the length of the antlerless portion to 3-days and begin on the first Friday in December. Why not move this season earlier than firearm season so there is less chance of taking a pregnant doe? It would give hunters a chance to get out early and to take their kids when it is warmer. I think it should be at least 9 days no matter what. Eliminate the urban zones portion. Why, this is where the deer are over populated. Letting the urban herd grow will not help the rural herds grow.

I support the conservation changes to archery season

I don't have a problem with any of these changes. I like moving the late youth season to hope for better temps for kids. I'd like to see the youth season extended to at least full week. It is a bad idea to start the youth season on Halloween. It's hard to get young kids out for a morning hunt when you have to drive a good distance. Most kids don't want to pass up trick or treating for one of the two evening hunts. These kids are the future of our hunting. Please give them better chances. Thank You

I would have no problem giving up days of the regular season to allow youth more time to harvest a deer considering the days they are allowed to hunt are limited because mainly of school

Don't support: The proposed reduction in the bag limit for antlered deer during the archery season. Many archery hunters only go out during the second portion of the season because they have an opportunity to take a second buck. Supports: Reciprocal permit pricing for nonresidents hunting in Mo. Limiting the number of antlered deer nonresidents can harvest. Ensuring accountability by requiring in-person checking of all deer harvested.

Agree with most of the proposals, however, disagree with eliminating the urban portion and the reduction in bucks for bow season (if we want to increase deer population, further temporarily limit doe tags). What I would really like to see is an increase in the number of agents to reduce poaching!

I'm in agreement with most of your proposed changes. I have land in Monroe county and have hunted on it for the past 16 years. We have always had a good # of deer, but I started seeing declines in that number starting in about 2007 and then we lost a large portion of our herd in 2012 to hemorrhagic disease (we found 16 dead from it). This past season was the worst I have experienced. I saw a total of 4 deer in two different bow hunting trips, one of those during what should have been prime time Nov 1, 2. The two changes that I do not like is moving the late youth only season to right after thanksgiving. I think that you should give the deer some time to settle down after the main firearms season. If you want to move it up, why not move it to the second week of December. The other change I do not agree with is the use of crossbows. Older hunters can already hunt with a crossbow with a doctors written notice. The use of a crossbow will take part of the skill out of the sport. Knowing that you have to get a deer within 40 yards or less to get a shot make you a better hunter and gives a better chance to the deer. A crossbow is not a whole lot different than a rifle, just a shorter range, but still past what most standard bows would be effective at. My biggest concern is CWD. I was very saddened to see that more deer were found with it this past season, and several of those were outside the small area where you have found all the others. I had hoped that maybe you could contain it, or even eliminate it, but it looks like it's just going to spread. I feel bad for the next generation of hunters, because their experience is going to much different then what I have seen. Thank you for all you do.

Just as long as there are bow only areas that do not allow crossbows, there is no problem. The idea that most people have are that crossbows are like rifles and this could cause problems for the bow users. I did not see any changes for the alternative season which is excellent.

The proposed regulation changes contradict themselves. It is explained in the rationale that reducing the firearms deer season by two days will help increase deer numbers, which are now "at or below desired levels." The same rationale is used to explain reducing the antlerless portion of the firearms season. I am not against any of these proposals. I am strongly against allowing crossbows as a legal method during the archery deer and turkey season. The rational used is that allowing crossbows "will help younger hunters enter the sport and also prolong participation by older hunters." This is a very weak rationale. There are many modern compound bows made for youth and other hunters who cannot draw a lot of weight. Older hunters can already get an exemption to use crossbows if they meet the right criteria. The rational states that most deer hunters are in favor of crossbows for archery season. Is this surprising? Allowing crossbows would give rifle hunters similar opportunities during the archery season to harvest another buck. Archery hunting is a sport, which should give the advantage to the animal, not the hunter. When muzzleloader hunting was first introduced, it was supposed to be a traditional hunt. It has since morphed into a separate rifle season with scoped "muzzleloaders" shooting up to 200 yards. If the MDC believes that deer numbers are at, or below desired levels, why would we want to give another advantage to the hunter, and not the deer. I would hope that Missouri could keep Archery hunting as a pure sport, and not succumb to the pressure of crossbow lobbyist and marketing campaigns. In closing, Archery hunting is not for everybody. It should be harder than rifle hunting. Modern crossbows are nothing more than short range rifles; they are not archery. The

allowance of crossbows would clearly offset, or reduce the positive effects of the other proposed MDC regulations. J.M.

I hate to see the reductions, but who can fault the Dept. of Conservation on deer management. I have hunted for many years and find fun in all hunts, deer or no deer. You do a great job. Keep it going.

I think allowing crossbows during deer archery season is a great idea. I don't really have an opinion about the rest of the proposed changes.

I agree with the shortening of the rifle season, but not with the youth changes or archery changes. Taking into account the weather of rifle season opening weekend, when most hunters are out, I am a firm believer that the weather and antler point restrictions are the two greatest factors in the harvest numbers. Also, the previous year's droughts, and inability of fair-weather rifle hunters to adapt and harvest had a huge impact on numbers. Legalizing crossbow hunting for all of archery season will most likely result in more 2 year old legal bucks being killed by sheer excitement of gun hunters getting their first "archery kill"- thus hurting the mature deer numbers, and having less bucks making it to the rut to breed. I would like to see the statistics of archery hunters who actually harvest two antlered deer per year. It is not an easy feat, especially with land prices rising through the roof, and leases becoming more and more popular options for land owners. Most archery hunters NEED the two buck tags to kill one buck a year. Late season hunting can be the best bow hunting of the year, but does take plan changes and hard work. I'd really appreciate an honest, personal reply from this. Thanks for all that you do for us!

Leave the northern counties alone. I have hunted there for years and see plentiful deer and would like to see it go back to at least 2 does and 1 buck in firearms. I spend entirely too much money to drive up there as well as my family and friends to have restrictions like this sanctioned. You need to let loose a little of the northern counties and be on the southern counties to thrive the population for all counties to benefit from the deer season revenue.

I support the firearm season proposals. I am against allowing crossbows during the archery season. I support reducing the limit of antlered deer during the archery season to 1.

I am able to use a crossbow because of severe shoulder arthritis. I have killed three deer with my crossbow and I feel I could have just as easily killed each one of them with a vertical bow (except for my bad shoulder). Many states and Canadian provinces allow crossbow hunting during archery season with no problems. Archery equipment is archery equipment whether it is vertical or horizontal. I am not in favor of any expansion of the youth deer season. 10 years of special opportunities for youth hunters (and their adult hunter) is already too much.

I understand that in some parts of the state, deer numbers are down. However, in Northwest Missouri (specifically Worth, Gentry, & Harrison Counties) deer numbers are still very high. From a safety standpoint, I would like to see the deer population decrease in Northwest Missouri, rather than increase. You can't drive very far in these counties without seeing at least one deer along the side of the road that was hit by a car. Maybe these proposed changes could only affect certain counties the way that the antler point restrictions do. I wonder the auto insurance industry would have any data to examine that would help you with this decision. I know that rates for

comprehensive auto insurance vary by county, and I was told by my agent that it was due to, among other things, the propensity for hitting deer in those counties. Maybe that data could be examined and used as a guide for where to build up deer populations and where not to.

As a Missouri landowner and archery hunter, I am NOT in favor of the proposed changes that would include the use of crossbows during the archery season except for those who are physically unable to draw back a conventional bow. I believe that this would be detrimental to bowhunting. At this time when I bow hunt the deer are relatively relaxed and easy to watch. Cross bows are just like guns, you just can't shoot the distance. In my area, the surrounding properties host 6 - 10 gun hunters per 100 acres. If even half of these folks take up a crossbow, the bucks on my farm will never make it to the trophy levels that I wait for. Crossbows for me will ruin the reason I went out and bought my 95 acres. This year I harvested a 170 class deer. I would say that bucks like this will not exist anymore if the woods are teaming with crossbow hunters. This regulation that would allow crossbows during the archery season will ruin the experience for many dedicated archery hunters. Also, I spent the second half of archery season in pursuit of a second buck. I have never harvested two bucks with my archery tags in 35 years of archery hunting. If I were only allowed 1 buck, my season could end in 1 day if the right buck came by. These newly proposed archery season regulations will ruin archery season for many dedicated archery hunters.

I live in Bollinger County near Leopold. I live on a 200 acre farm where I manage soybeans, hay, timber, and wildlife. In 2012 the price of soybeans skyrocketed to \$17 per bushel. I have many neighbors that converted their hayfields into soybeans. They were planting small fields surrounded by woods. They were given permission by the MDC to shoot a certain amount of does. The farmers shot many more than their tags allowed them to harvest. A blind eye was turned towards this illegal activity. There were also bucks being shot. The deer were left to rot in the July and August heat. I believe that crossbows would be a very good addition to archery season. In Bollinger County there are many hunters such as myself that work 45 hours per week and have limited time to hunt evenings while raising children. I would benefit greatly by knowing that my success rate would be greatly increased by using a crossbow instead of a compound bow. My family loves eating venison and knowing that I could most likely harvest a couple of more deer every year would be an economic boost for my family. If people don't want to use the crossbow they can still use a compound or recurve. I do not think shortening the season is good in any way. The firearm season is already more of a sprint than a marathon. If anything I would like to see the firearm season lengthened to 2 weeks instead of the current 10 days. Doe tags should also be increased to two per hunter instead of 1 per hunter as it is currently. I do not want to hear soybean farmers complaining about deer damage simply because they have gold fever over \$15 per bushel soybeans. The way to control the deer population in Bollinger County is to let legal hunters harvest more venison. If the deer herd gets increased in Bollinger county the soybean farmers will poach the deer that they see eating their soybeans. My conclusion is to permit crossbows, increase doe tags, and lengthen the firearm season for

Bollinger County. I cannot comment on other areas of the state. I hunt only in Bollinger County. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to have a voice, Your fellow conservationist, K.H.

Bad idea to shorten the November portion. Some guys only have that time to hunt. The antlerless portion being in December isn't as useful to guys b/c of it being so close to the holidays and family stuff going on. I hunt in Audrain county and seen plenty of deer this year. I don't think that the deer numbers are down at all. I would have liked an additional tag for the extra meat. I tagged out in one evening. Maybe just consider cutting back the unlimited doe tags to just 2 or 3 antlerless like it used to be. Raise out of state tags. We are really cheap considering what you want to pay in other states to go there and hunt. Out of state any deer tag = \$400. Out of state antlerless tag = \$225.

I would not like to see the seasons shortened. I am currently hunting in southeast Mo where deer numbers are not comparable to other areas of the state. As I have lived and hunted in central Mo and northwestern Mo in the years past, I can attest that the hunting in this area is much different and the extra days are very much needed if you are trying to harvest the certain deer you have been hunting. Also my family is a very tight nit hunting family and we rely on the yearly deer harvest to help subsidize our grocery bill. Less time in the stand usually equates to less meat in the freezer. So to end my comment I would vote against the shortening of any season or less tags to be sold. At the same time I agree with moving the youth season to a more hospitable time of year as I have young kids who will soon be of age to start the hunting education and lifestyle my father bestowed unto me.

I would have no problem with a 9 day November portion season. I object strongly to lengthening the late youth season when you cut the November portion and the antlerless season but lengthen the youth season. I believe antlerless season should be late December and should be 9 days. I feel that cross bows would give more people the opportunity to hunt the archery season. Non-resident tags should be comparable with the state from which the hunter comes from. If a state charges \$500.00 to hunt elf/deer or whatever then Missouri should charge that person the same amount for hunting our deer or turkey or whatever wildlife. As challenging as archery hunting is I would not support changing the number of antlered deer you take with a bow.

Agree with reducing firearms to 9 days and doe season to 3 days. Agree with buck limit for bowhunting. Disagree with crossbows - if you want to put age based limits (ok under 16 and over 65) then you accomplish what you want without completely opening the regulation. Prefer late youth firearms in January. Thank you.

Take the 4 point restriction away. Every buck that has at least 7 point is getting taken out as soon as they are seen when a lot of people would let a lot of the smaller rack 7 and 8 pointers go because they figure they will see a bigger one and end up not shooting a buck at all and the people that want to shoot a buck will shoot smaller ones and be done but by targeting the upcoming 2 and 3 year old bucks we are taking out the older age class of deer and getting left with a younger deer heard and small genetics because we are taking the older an better genetics. Thank you.

1. Maintaining the current timing of the November portion but reducing the length from 11 days to nine days. Comment: I believe this is good, and I support this proposed change. 2. Expanding the late youth firearms weekend from two days to three days and having it begin the Friday after Thanksgiving instead of early January. Comment: I support this proposed change. I have a son that participates in the youth season, and I think this would increase his enthusiasm for participation. 3. Reducing the length of the antlerless firearms portion from 12 days to three days and beginning it on the first Friday in December. Comment: I think 12 days is too long, and three days is too short. I would counter-propose reducing to 7 days, and only include one weekend period in that. I think the important factor to temporarily reduce some of the antlerless harvest is to eliminate one of the weekends. 4. Eliminating the urban zones portion. Comment: I do not have an opinion on this. 5. Allowing crossbows as a legal method. Comment: I support allowing crossbows as a legal method during the full length of archery season. I have hunted with a compound bow for 25 years, and sometimes with a crossbow for the past 3 years. I do not see a significant advantage in using a crossbow, as some folks think. I do see allowing crossbow hunting as a valid means to get more youth involved in archery hunting, and to get older hunters more involved. 6. Reducing the limit of antlered deer during the archery season from two to one. Comment: I do not support this proposed change. I think two is an appropriate number. I would counter-propose reducing or restricting the number of bonus antlerless permits that a hunter could purchase.

A) Make the Youth Season does only (any kid would be proud of a deer, any deer) B) Rid the antler restriction. C) raise out of state license rates.

I am for all the proposed changes with the EXCEPTION OF allowing crossbows during the Archery season. Crossbows are similar to ANY FIREARM as the bow is in a locked & cocked position and is fired with the pull of a TRIGGER. I am 100% AGAINST allowing crossbows to be used in any season other than during the alternative method season. A youth should not be archery hunting if they cannot draw the bow and allowing the use of a crossbow is not the proper teaching method. As for older adults (and children for that matter), they can obtain a special permit (my neighbor has one) if they are handicap and cannot physically draw a bow. I can also tell you I have spoken with several hunters on this topic and not ONE wants the crossbow added. Sincerely, B.H.

I think the length should stay the same because there are working people who can't take but certain times off work for deer season. Any deer hunter knows that after opening day, the deer make themselves scarce by going into the deep woods and are good at hiding, making them harder to hunt. Also, for some people, deer meat may be a main source of food, as meat prices are at an all-time high. Please leave the length of deer season as it is. Thank you.

I am strongly against shortening the season. The working man, like myself, already have difficulty juggling work, kids, and hunting. I am all for giving children more opportunities to hunt. Eliminating the urban zones is a bad idea. Deer traffic accidents are a real problem in Jackson county where I spend most of my time. Thanks for caring, we appreciate it.

I disagree with the reduction of doe season from 12 to 3 days. This limits the hunters to a narrow window in which they may not be able to get off work. I suggest limits of 7 days from Saturday to the following Sunday but also limit the number of does to 1. Even limit the total number of does per hunter, archery, reg. firearms, doe season, and black powder to 1 or 2. Limit the number of deer taken, not the opportunity to hunt. Respectfully, C.P.

I do not agree with allowing Crossbows during archery season, here's why- Archery seasons are based on the premise of using a primitive weapon. Archery guidelines are about maintaining the primitive weapons status. The change proposed is not currently within those ideal guidelines. If your vision or health problems dictate you must use a crossbow to make a safe and humane shot, then that would have you hunting (with your scoped cross bow), during the modern firearm season or getting a permit to hunt during archery season. If you cannot see well enough or you are not strong enough to hunt with a bow, then you should no longer hunt during archery seasons. It's that simple, and a choice many others have made, and will have to make eventually, to continue hunting. Personal ethics and the best interest of the animals we hunt would prevent me from hunting with a bow if I could not see my site pins or draw back my bow.

1. I would be interested on if there would really be that much benefit by limiting archery hunters to one buck. I do not believe there are that many bucks killed by archery means after firearms season. 2. Every state outside Mo I have hunted non-residents have to draw for tags. That would only seem to make sense for Mo. IA, KS and IL have plenty of deer but limit tags. Would be a better way to manage our bucks.

I do not agree with the inclusion of crossbows in the archery season. A bow is not a weapon that is continually cocked and ready to be fired. To this point, you have to discharge a crossbow similar to discharging a muzzleloader as once it is loaded, there is no way to disarm without firing the ball or in this case the bolt - which is not even an arrow. Part of what make the archery season unique is that not only do you have to get close to the animal, you have to be skilled enough to know when and when not to draw the bow and that is part of the hunt. It appears you are already understand the success rate of the archery season will go up due to the inclusion of the crossbow with the taking away the potential for a second archery buck in the new proposed changes. With an increased success rate, will this ultimately result in a reduced archery season? Please keep the crossbow out of the archery season as it already has a place in the regular firearms season or muzzleloader season should someone want to choose to hunt with a crossbow.

I agree with all the proposed changes for 2016-2017 deer season.

This page needs another option check box in the "How did you hear about the proposed deer season changes" that says "Email". I'm fine with shortening the November Firearms portion to 9 days instead of 11. I'm fine with moving the late youth Firearms portion to Thanksgiving weekend. I'm fine with shortening the antlerless portion to 3 days. I have no opinion on the urban zones portion because I don't hunt in urban zones. Allowing crossbows as legal method during the Archery portion has been a hot topic for some time now. I'm neither for or against it, but I personally choose the Longbow, Recurve, or Compound and don't intend to use a crossbow even if it's made legal to do so. I've shot crossbows before and didn't care for them because of the

added weight and bulk. I don't particularly care for the 1 buck limit during Archery season, but honestly I don't Archery hunt very much after firearms season unless I was unsuccessful and still need a deer. If that's the case I'm just hunting for meat and not bone. Likewise, I stopped hunting the muzzle loader portion of deer season when the opening date got pushed into middle December and sold my muzzle loading rifle. I never agreed that it was a good idea to move the antlerless portion up to start immediately after the November Firearms portion. Since the rut is still going on and bucks have their antlers on it's too easy for a hunter to continue his hunt for a buck and simply call it in as a doe. I've heard many stories of this happening and the perpetrators got away with it scott free. Lastly, I think the non-resident permits should be increased.

I support all of the deer season changes except shortening the antlerless season to three days. I would like to see it last seven days. I would like to see archery season shortened, it is too long. It should start October 1 and end January 1. I would like to see Poosey Conservation Area restricted to anydeer permits only.

I am against allowing the use of crossbows into the regular archery season. The crossbow is more like a gun than a bow and can be carried fully drawn and ready to fire (deliberately or accidentally) they should only be allowed in the alternative season with the hunter orange regulation enforced and for handicapped during the regular archery season. Also, if you are only allowed one antlered deer during archery season most bowhunters will most likely not hunt the first couple months of the season. I don't understand the thinking of these new considerations but I hope that they fall to the wayside. It will definitely affect my own hunting and may end it completely. I pray I am not the only one that feels this way and hope you really look at the cons of the use crossbow during the regular archery season.

I am a strong advocate of all changes under consideration for the 2016-2017 season, particularly with respect to shortening the firearm season and both archery proposals.

I own 142 acres in Mo. and reside in Illinois. I totally disagree with and have disagreed w/the non-resident permit increase. I can't afford it. If the permit fee increases for non-residents I will no longer hunt in Missouri. I grew up in Clark Co. and enjoy hunting and the outdoors, but this is ridiculous. I pay triple for the non-resident permit vs. the taxes I pay on the land.

If one of our goals is to encourage young hunters then give them a doe tag at no cost. I work for a newspaper and am a hunter ed instructor and it's almost impossible to get a young hunter to share their story. Why, THEY DIDN'T KILL THE DEER! And if they take a doe it's like they did something bad. Figure in what a youth season doe season harvest would be and then set your limits around that figure.

MDC just had a season where there were more restrictions than in previous years. There isn't any way to tell the effect those changes may have had, nor what would be the long term effects of keeping those restrictions. Changing the regs before even being able to assess the results of current changes is irresponsible and a knee jerk reaction. Crossbows? Sure, unless the archery harvest spikes heavily. Perhaps a separate class of tag would help. Moving the season? I'm against it. Shortening the season? I'm against that, as well, but would prefer that over moving the season. 3-day youth hunt after Thanksgiving? Would prefer not, but not strongly. Reduce the

any deer tags for archery? I have always wondered why this has been 2 rather than one. Sure, reduce this and see how it works. Antler Point Restriction? Have never thought this was a good idea. It goes against everything I believe in under QDMA guidelines. Let the hunters take the inferior bucks out of the herd. I can see keeping the restriction if and only if there is a program put in place to cull the inferior buck as antlerless or some other program. There you have it. Does anyone listen to me though?

All of the proposed changes would be fine except for reducing the number of bucks an archer could take during archery season. That second buck tag that's still in my pocket after rifle season is the only reason I go hunting late season when it's cold. If I were to kill a buck in early season, then I would not go hunting again until rifle season which would really limit the number of times I get to be on stand. Crossbows and the other changes don't bother me but this proposed change I do not agree with.

Maintain the current timing of November portion and the reduction to 9 days seems like a good management move, I agree. Youth late season is ok where it is! We give them too much now and I don't think they should be allowed to actually hunt till they have gone through Hunters Ed and not before the age of 11. Reduction of the length of antlerless season would be Ok. No opinion on the urban zones portions. Definitely IN FAVOR of the use of crossbows as a legal method during archery deer and turkey season! No reductions to the limit of antlered deer. Keep it the way it is with only 1 buck before firearms season and one after. Thank you! These changes are necessary to keep and improve the herd and future of hunting for everyone then I am in favor of the changes especially the crossbow usage.

Crossbows should be allowed for anyone 50 years or older or a medical problem not allowing them to use a bow. Other changes sound good to ensure deer hunting for future generations.

I support the changes MDC is considering. As a former avid bowhunter, I never thought I would support crossbows. Now as I am getting older and have two small children, I don't have the time to practice like I once did or get in the woods nearly as often. In addition, my shoulders aren't what they once were and I know that I am not as good as I once was. When I do make it out, I would prefer to know I am prepared to make a good shot. I fully support the use of crossbows because it will allow people like me to continue ethically pursuing deer during these seasons. In the end, a dead deer is a dead deer, whether it was a bow or crossbow. That is why there are seasonal limits. I also support the reduction from 2 bucks to 1 for archery. That is on par with neighboring states and could offset increased hunter efficiency. I support the general reduction in firearms seasons that are being considered. 9 days is plenty. As a Missouri Citizen and an avid hunter, I would like to see MDC renew its interest in the Missouri River Recovery Program, specifically the mitigation piece. This is a debt owed to the citizens of Missouri and it should be repayed. I deer/turkey/waterfowl hunt on these properties and find them to be excellent. I would like to see more of them available to Missouri hunters.

I strongly feel crossbows should be legal during archery season. I have legally hunted with a crossbow for the past three seasons (Dr excuse for a bad shoulder). After hunting with a compound bow for approx. 25 years previously, I have not found there to be much of a

difference between the two. I personally am a little bit more accurate with the crossbow, which should result in fewer wounded deer (a good thing I believe). I do not feel that I can shoot the crossbow any farther than the compound. I do not see any difference in using a crossbow during archery season than allowing a scope on a rifle during gun season (both could provide for improved accuracy). It would be great if legalizing crossbows would give a few more hunters the opportunity to hunt. Please do not allow the selfishness of some to take away the opportunity of others to enjoy archery hunting. Thank you for your time & consideration: D.G.

All of the proposed changes are OK.

This is a bad idea. My stepfather's family leases a farm to out of state hunters. I was contacted by them in reference to the changes in season. They offered half the amount they paid for last season if the change is approved stating that it is not wise for them to drive out and spend a week (citing warm weather or other problems in first days of season over the last 2 years. The family uses the income from the group to keep this farm as a wildlife friendly location. They pay the taxes and pay to plant food plots and maintain the farm for this purpose. If this change is made the family will be forced to put ground back into crop production. The group of hunters are not interested in driving from the east coast for just a few days if hunting. The group spends a lot of money locally not to mention 6 out of state tags average. Also the amount of crops destroyed on the other 2 farm has increased every year. Are less deer eating more crops. game cameras show the same size herds as past years? As a hunter I have seen as many deer as past years but opted to not harvest this year. I purchased all tags allotted in both gun and bow, did you count those as 4 tags purchased and no deer to fill the tags? If so, you were incorrect. If the change is made I will not purchase tags, which will take away management monies. I will use farm tag and be done with it. I feel the counting method your department is using is flawed in some way. You need to seriously consider the changes you making in a time when the income to your department and landowners is needed so badly.

I have no issue with the 9 day season. I have no issues with expanding the late youth portion to 3-days beginning the first Friday after Thanksgiving. I do not agree with allowing crossbows as a legal method during the archery deer and turkey season. I believe this will cause more deer to shot a farther distance and not be recovered. This method should remain as a tool for the disabled. I do not agree with the reduction of the limit of antlered deer during the archery season to 1. The second deer is after gun season and only the most dedicated hunters hunt during this time.

I'm not in favor of the 1 buck for archery hunters. Don't your stats show that a very small percentage of bow hunters kill 2 bucks? So aren't you addressing a problem that is not even a problem? Or are you asking bow hunters to give up their second buck tag because you expect cross bow hunters to kill so many bucks that the few bow hunters shouldn't be allowed their second buck? I bow hunt strictly and look forward to the challenge of hunting bucks. I think cross bows should only be allowed for those over 60 and under 16. Isn't that who you say you're trying to recruit as hunters? If we're handicapped or injured we can already apply for an exemption. There is no reason to allow crossbows for able bodied hunters during bow season, let

them use them during firearm season and alternative methods. I don't see anything about muzzleloader season. Is it staying the same? M1 season started as a primitive season but now has various weapons capable of killing deer at 250+ yards, do we need it to be so long? There is only so many deer, it's ok for people not to get one sometimes. Thanks for the opportunity to voice my opinion. C.J.

I agree with all of your firearm proposals. I also agree with allowing the use of crossbows, as I think that it will promote more hunters, like the younger, and older people. It is a known fact that the hunter numbers are declining, and I believe that this would help. I would say the biggest percentage of the people that are against this change, hunt with a compound bow with all of the latest technology on it, not a recurve, or longbow! I enjoy shooting, and hunting with my compound bow, but if this helps promote hunters, then I am all for it. I do not agree with the "one buck with the bow" though. A lot of hunters like to shoot deer and eat them, it's not all about the horns for them, and I feel that if you are allowed two deer, then you should be able to shoot two deer regardless of the sex. I myself the last few years have been selective on what I shoot, and I have been letting the smaller bucks go, but it is deer hunting, so I don't think that everyone should have to think the way that I do. A lot of people are putting too much emphasis on shooting a big buck for making big bucks. I also think that the unlimited antlerless archery permits should be done away with. I feel that one would be more than enough with all of the other tags a person can get.

Crossbows should not be added to archery season for everyone. Only used with an exemption like it has always been, or an age restriction could be implemented. Under 16 and over 55 could use a crossbow during archery season. I like the shortened season for both the regular firearms season and the antlerless season. Indifferent on the youth season move, but don't think adding a day is needed. Indifferent on the urban zone change. I am not in favor of one antlered deer for archery hunters. Very few people use their second any deer tag, but why limit the people who do want to harvest two bucks during archery season. I want the option, if I harvest a buck early in the season, to at least hunt for another buck after firearms season. There would be very little change in deer harvest, but a bunch of unhappy archery hunters. There are options I would support. Two bucks, but only one before firearms season during archery season, and only one antlered deer with a firearm. A second buck could be harvested with a bow if a hunter does not shoot a buck with a firearm. Or allow an unused firearm any deer permit to be used by any legal method during the prescribed season after firearms season concludes. One archery any deer permit and one firearm any deer permit. The latter essentially turns into an archery any deer after firearms season. If you want to restrict harvest, stop selling so many antlerless permits. Limit every hunter to using two antlerless permits total, by any method, including archery.

Nonresidents- Don't include turkey permits with the archery deer permits. Make a NR permit one any deer permit, at a cost of \$250, for either firearm or archery. An antlerless permit for a NR should be \$50 and limited to two total by any method. Antlerless permits can still only be purchased after an any deer permit is purchased.

I don't see where any changes are needed.

I agree with shortening firearms season to 9 days. I also agree with the 1 buck during archery season. I totally DISAGREE with timing of youth season and the proposed one. The original one is at peak rut and interferes with breeding. Missouri is one of the only states to have firearms (youth and adult) season during peak breeding. This is also an open invitation for poaching. Too many Dads shooting the deer and having the kids tag it. There must be a minimum age for youth hunting! The majority of kids 9 years and under lack the physical skills and maturity to safely harvest a deer. Fathers should take their children hunting when they are of age and during regular firearms season. If you want to get more kids involved, give them free tags. You can make up for the lost revenue by charging landowners for permits (I'm a landowner and would gladly pay for permits). I don't agree with the crossbow. If you allow a crossbow, you might as well allow muzzleloaders for archer season! You aren't giving the deer a chance. One other comment: Poaching is running rampant and the lack of agents in the field is the problem. I thought telecheck was supposed to put more agents in the field? Instead, telecheck has just made the problem worse. I have hunted for 30 years and have only seen one agent in the field. People don't even call there harvest in anymore. MDC needs more agents and more checkpoints. Write more tickets to cover the expense of the new agents.

You're on the right track. I agree with all of your proposals.

As a retired biologist, I definitely understand and appreciate the proposed changes. If population levels are at or below desired numbers, I don't believe extending or changing the youth season at the time is in the best interest of the population. Changes to the firearms deer season are appropriate, although personally I really enjoy those two days after the first two weekends because most of the hunters have left the field and deer are returning to their normal habits. I do not support the 3 day doe season beginning in December. I believe it to be counterproductive to your goals. By delaying the antlerless season, hunters have time to process their harvest, relax, and prepare to go again. If there is a delayed 3 day antlerless season, I believe you will see a much larger number of hunters in the field, harvesting more does. I would suggest an antlerless season that still begins at the close of the firearms season, and goes through the following weekend, making an antlerless season that is Monday through Sunday or 7 days. I really enjoy the antlerless season, because a hunter can be selective, and rarely sees another hunter. I truly believe the proposed 3 day season will actually result in a greater harvest of does and button bucks.

I am an avid hunter in NJ. I know many people were against the implementation of the use of crossbows a few years ago. This was for many reasons including that they are just like shooting a gun and people would not practice and they were unsafe. First of all I gave up hunting and came back to the sport due to the "crossbow". I find them no different than any other hunting implement. If the desire is to be safe, it will happen with all types of implements used. The effective range of a cross bow is no different than a regular bow. All four of the deer that I have taken in the last two years of crossbow hunting have been within 30 yards. I enjoy the sport again. I practice as much as I can in the spring and summer leading up to our early season and enjoy it more than even hunting with a firearm. A respectful hunter in NJ, A.

I support all of these changes to some level. I would like to see crossbow allowed in Missouri as an option during regular archery season. I have been hunting with the crossbow during the alternative and firearms seasons for several years. I find it gives me another hunting tool to use when hunting deer, I would love to try turkey hunting with a crossbow but never tried it. I find it does well in hunting blinds, and it is still very challenging. I would like see the November firearms season stay at 11 days.

All of the proposed changes make sense and move to limiting the number of deer taken across all deer hunting seasons EXCEPT allowing crossbows during all of archery season. This makes no sense to me and is the only proposed change that will increase the number of deer killed rather than decrease. I believe crossbows belong with the alternative method season. The 10 other guys I hunt with all agree with me on this issue. I'm not a huge fan of moving youth season to the weekend after Thanksgiving. Moving it to a holiday weekend of any kind seems like a bad idea.

I am for all the changes except the crossbow being legal for everyone to use. I believe you should set a age limit say 45 years of age and up then you can use a cross bow legally.

I'm all for legal crossbow hunting in archery season.

The antlerless firearms **SHOULD BE REDUCED** to 3 days. Bowhunters should be **BOW HUNTING, NOT CROSSBOW HUNTING**. If you are older than 60 years of age then you should be able to crossbow hunt in archery season. If you are younger than 60 then you should be hunting archery with a bow. I strongly disagree on the archery season buck limit going down to 1 instead of 2. In my experience most bow hunters are selective on age of buck taken. But it also is a lot harder to tag an older buck using a bow rather than a gun. I use the 2nd bow season to hunt a very mature deer- I never do but it is the fact that your get to keep going out into the woods and hunt, I could care less about the killing part.

Cross bows should be allowed but not for youths. The youth season should not be extended and not be before regular gun season, or thanksgiving. The excuse of introducing them before the regular season only has a negative effect on bow hunters. Both my sons went with me during regular firearms season not during youth season. Youth season for turkey season should also be canceled. It also has a negative effect on turkey hunting for adults.

Leave the archery laws alone, no on the crossbow without a medical permit and no to the number of buck. If it's not broken don't fix it!

Reducing the number of days of gun season may be necessary to maintain our deer herd. The same can be said for reducing the number of antlered deer during archery season. I also favor extending the youth portion to get more kids involved, however I think the MCD should look closely at deer taken with a high powered rifle by a 6-7-8 year old. I have serious doubts about a child of that age and stature being able to handle a 30-06, .270 Or .243 without more than a little assistance from an adult. As for allowing crossbows as a legal method during archery season, I feel this is also a good idea. With the type of compound bows now used to hunt the difference between the compound and cross bows is minimal. If nothing else allowing the use of cross bows by those 55 and older should be permitted.

I am in favor of all the changes you are considering. I think these changes will improve our deer herd and also improve our hunting here in Missouri. I have been deer hunting for over 50 years and remember when there was only the one season and only a few days long and the hunting was still great!

I don't agree with shortening the firearms season. I believe it should stay the way it is but maybe move it up a weekend earlier. I do believe anyone should be allowed to use a crossbow during archery season. I agree with the other changes proposed.

I would like to see regulations like Iowa with limiting the number of non residents and raising the rates. Iowa, Kansas, and Illinois are all known for having big deer and enough of them. Missouri is known for cheap and easy tags with limiting the numbers. It would make it more desirable, which in turn you can raise the price. Hunters from all around the country flock here in November, they lease up most the land and make it nearly impossible to find land to hunt. Which in turn leaves lots of residents having nowhere but over hunted public land. All of these states surround Missouri they just have different rules and regulations which seems to be working just fine. I'm don't believe the deer herd is as healthy as it should be with hunting or even just driving around you don't see nearly the deer there was a few years ago. I believe a lot of that has to do with the die off. Something needs to change to bring the deer population back. I'm not sure how crossbows are gonna help this. I have shot crossbows and they are way easier the a regular bow you don't have to draw back with a deer standing in front of you and you don't have to hold it at full draw until you get a clear shot. It seems that they might as well be shooting a 22 it would be just as difficult. There will be a lot more participants but that is just because anyone can do it no skill involved.

I think moving firearms portion to first weekend in December for 9 days, moving it out of the rut. Extending archery season till Jan 31st. Keep with 2 antlered deer but must earn 2nd by harvesting doe to be checked at check-in station. Raise the nonresidents tag to match that of IA, KS, IL, and IN. Or, perhaps, a draw state. Charge a 20.00 fee to hunt conservation areas, this will give the mdc more money to replant the native grasses and food sources on said land.

Leave it alone.

By cutting the season back you are not thinking about the many hunters that are coming into Mo from other states. This will limit their time on the road, thus they will not have time to get here so, of course, they will not come. So how much less will be spent in Mo. for different sources? Did you ever travel a country road at night and say a prayer until you get home that deer will not make you wreck? I have and have had many run out in front of me. We have too many deer, too many hungry people out there. Let them have the chance to feed their families.

As a hunter that works full-time. I do not agree with shortening the days in any season. It is very hard to find time to get into the woods and shortening the hunter cycle would only make it harder. Please do not reduce the days.

I think that the urban zone is an important season to keep. It allows or gives hunters an area to focus on otherwise they would be out in woods away from urban areas. Keeping the population

at bay in our towns and cities is important. Allowing crossbows to be used during archery season isn't a good thing. Yes it would sell more archery tags, but will cause a large amount of wounded deer by the hands of inexperienced crossbow users. Not to mention the possibility of a hunter getting hurt with one. Some kind of a class would be a good thing. I do however support allowing a hunter to use a crossbow if they have an injury. I don't like limiting archery season to 1 buck. The numbers of bucks taken by archers are considerably lower than the numbers taken by firearms. If you give every Joe the Plumber a crossbow you will need to reduce the number of bucks taken. Buck hunting early season bucks and post rut bucks are like hunting two different animals. I myself find it very hard to go sit in a tree in the late season COLD without a buck tag. Taking that away, would cut my archery season in 1/2. This isn't part of what you asked, but I think that the antler restrictions are one of the BEST things you have ever done for deer hunting in the state of Missouri. THANK YOU! I hope my input is helpful JTS.

Move firearms deer season to December.

I disagree with opening archery to include Crossbows. Disabled hunters already have an exception, if adding crossbow, it should not be for the entirety of the archery season. It could be a separate alternative portion. Adding another method during the entire archery season will add to the number of people in the woods and thus increase the number of deer harvested. This seems to contradict what you are trying to accomplish. Reducing the number of antlered bucks during archery is fine if you believe that it would make a significant impact, I would like to see the numbers that support this. I would think that the number of archers that take a second antlered deer would be relatively small as compared to the amount of antlered bucks taken during the firearms portion. It would also be minimal as compared to the amount of antlered deer that would be harvested by opening archery to crossbows. If you could forfeit your firearms antlered deer tag for a second archery antlered tag, it would offer an option for some hunters. Making it two antlered deer during any season would also be a good solution. Removing the Urban Zones portion is a horrible idea. Urban Zone hunting should be opened further. Overpopulation occurs in these zones and cutting this season will not help the "overall herd", it will only increase the amount of nuance deer in urban areas. Hunting to control the urban deer population is the correct solution, Higher vehicle/deer collision rates, starvation and increased disease transmission is not. We are sportsman & conservationists, and it is our duty to prevent this. Working with local municipalities to allow more archery hunting in these areas would be a great solution. Currently many municipalities will not allow even archery hunting on privately owned acreage. Moving the late youth season up is a good idea. Immediately following the shortened firearms portion would be a better time. If you are already shortening the firearms portion by three days, it offers the perfect opportunity to move the late youth season up without disrupting any other seasons. The weekend after Thanksgiving is typically the first weekend back in the woods for archery hunters for both deer & turkey. I would also like to see more explanation of "simplify conservation area regulations by limiting methods and use of firearms and archery antlerless permits". I am assuming you will be making certain conservation areas antlered deer only. I would like to see the proposed areas and overall restrictions. Thank you

Agree with all changes. Would like to see alternative methods season moved away from week of Christmas.

I am against allowing crossbows during archery season for all hunters. I would be for allowing kids less than 16 and adults older than 65 but if that is not an option then I am 100% against crossbows being allowed. I am for limiting archery hunters to one buck. I am for reducing the length of the firearms and antler less deer seasons.

I have been hunting since I was old enough to hold a gun but was only able to return to bow hunting these last several years with the use of a disabled permit. Wrestling with physical limitations for years which made it uncomfortable and then impossible to pull a bow string had almost caused me to give up on bow hunting altogether. When I finally decided to try hunting with a crossbow, it was like I was a kid again. Not only was I able to take advantage of the longer bow season but my father was also able to get back into bow hunting. If crossbows were allowed in the archery season, we would not have lost all those years. If the regulations were changed to allow everyone to use crossbows in the archery season my sons (12, 16) would be able to join us on our fall hunts. We all practice with the crossbows and they have proven to be very accurate marksmen. Why should they be denied the pleasure of archery hunting with me and my dad during archery season just because they cannot legally use a crossBOW? I thought we were trying to encourage not discourage younger hunters.

I support the changes to the fire arms season and the limit of altered deer during the archery season. However, I think cross bows should be limited to persons with physical or medical disabilities and to those 60 years old or older.

I do like some of the ideas that you have for the 2016-2017 season. I would also like to see an 8 pt. restriction for the November portion of the rifle season. Too many young bucks getting shot. Would you also consider eliminating both the urban hunt and the antlerless season then make the alternative method a does only season starting it on Nov 28th to Dec. 6th? Rifle hunters would be done. This would allow bow hunters a chance at a buck during the second rut later in Dec. Then you could have an early youth season and a youth season in Dec. and then you could maybe expand the youth season before and after maybe up to 4 days. That is what hunting and fishing is about, trying to get the future youth involved. I would consider moving the start of the bow season back to Oct 1st. It is too warm and too many deer are found too late to salvage during the warm days of September

First, I applaud the department for reaching people, that might otherwise be in the dark, on the proposed changes. I strongly agree with all changes, except two. I would like to see the archery buck limit unchanged. If it were to change, I would hope to at least have that permit replaced with an antlerless archery permit. The other proposal that I disagree with is the inclusion of crossbows during archery season. There's already plenty of firearms season available for those that choose to use a crossbow. I appreciate all the department does for Missouri's wildlife and the people that enjoy it. Thank you, R.D.

I feel I need to run these proposed changes by my hunting attorney who I hire to translate the ever increasing rules. Are the deer running from fire? Wait no, the deer just stepped out of the

creek, can I shoot it? Is the rule that the deer can't be in the water, but he is wet-is that against the law now? Looking at my gun, I see that my magazine holds 10 rounds - is that legal? Was it that the gun holds no more than 10, but what about the one in the chamber? I take my hat off to scratch my head, oops - I just committed a wildlife violation, quickly I put my hat back on. There are patches of dirt on it that kind of makes it look camouflaged. Oh no, that is illegal too, I frantically try to scrub the splotches of my cap while I am still wearing it. Good thing I have my tags with me, but did I sign them, I quickly pull my wallet out and check - phew, they are signed, thank God cause I don't have a pen with me deer hunting. I look around for some movement and see a whitish pile lying by the timberline but in the field - what is that? I ask. Oh my God! It is soybeans that spilled during the transfer from combine to trailer. Is that illegal, am I now a poacher hunting over bait? Who knows, but I look around and sneak out of the only deer stand and move about a hundred yards down. I see another deer, large buck, big spread but he is standing 80 yards away. Is that an eight point, seven point or just a large spread six point I don't have binoculars to see for sure. Have to let him go because if it turns out to be a six pointer it would end up being an expensive deer. Let me see...Do I want more rules – hell no

Please include the Crossbow in the regular Archery Season.

The Antlerless Portion should be longer than a week. There are more antlerless deer than antlered deer.

I have no problem with the proposed changes.

I agree with all the changes. The department has done an excellent job with all their policies so far.

Over the past five years, my group has hunted in the Indian Trail CA during rifle and alternative seasons. There is no shortage of deer. In fact, over the past two years, we have seen more large bucks. The number of does has been constant. We may have seen more deer because we now know the CA better than when we began hunting there. The reduction of days for antlerless hunting does not affect us because Indian Trail CA does not have that season. It may be logistically impossible, but I would like to see changes made by county or region rather than state-wide. Indian Trails CA is well balanced and requires no changes, based on our experience. Perhaps other areas within Missouri need to be adjusted.

I feel that crossbow should be allowed for hunters.

I think you need to leave the season as it is. We have a hard enough time hunting.

Don't shorten the regular season. If anything, change when it is! The kids get the best time to hunt, right during rut. Knock out the week between the youth portion and regular season. Put the youth portion after the rut. Do away with the stupid 4 on one side rule for bucks. Limit the doe kill. If you're going to do that, then do away with the doe/antlerless portion for a year. Build up the population a little. The blue tongue and wasting disease killed a ton of deer. Bring back the check in stations and do away with the honor system. Poachers are gonna poach. Regardless. But make it harder for them.

Crossbows are archery equipment the same as any other bow. There are a lot of misconceptions about them. They are not “cross-guns” nor do they have the range of a firearm. Most modern adult compound bows have the same range potential. Crossbows have their own limitations and positives as well, as any hunting tool does.

I agree with all your changes except the crossbow deal. All for impaired hunters using them. But, I see too many deer wounded from shots taken at extreme ranges. I hope you do not allow crossbows to be allowed during archery season.

Some people have to work so they may not be able to hunt during the grace period of antlerless. And cutting time off of the season could also make it harder to put meat in the fridge, which for a low income family is a massive help when it comes to a grocery bill. Some people hunt because they have to. As the government has forgotten that is how things used to be, you had to go out and earn a meal. They will let illegal immigrants come in, get welfare, tannif, and food stamps but they want to cut true Americans from hunting? I do not believe this is right.

On the proposed firearms changes, I think they are fine. I have never hunted the urban portion so have no comment on that. On the archery season changes I am opposed to allowing crossbows during archery season without a medical exemption. The crossbow hunter already has the alternative methods season as well as firearms season, if crossbows are allowed during archery season we might as well allow the rest of the alternative weapons too. On the conservation areas, I feel the pressure is too high already and I don't think bonus tags should be used on public areas at all. I don't even hunt the local conservation area any more during firearms season, there are too many inconsiderate and/or dangerous people. During the last two alternative weapons seasons the road hunters were bad at Indian Trail CA, they are rampant during firearms season.

Make the antler restrictions state wide. Southern state would benefit this.

I have no problems with all of except for one point. From my perspective, there are overpopulated urban areas. If I understand the threat of disease spread in the deer population, it is directly associated with areas of overpopulation. I have not been able to participate in the urban hunts, but there seem to be many who can. I feel this is a need to continuation of the healthy deer herd. I really like the idea of allowing crossbows during archery season. I am an old recurve loving guy, killed my first one at 17. But I have no problem with the great equipment available for use by archers. If we allow sights, releases, faster & stronger bows, with super enhanced let off, why not crossbows? What I'm ready to learn is atlatl, please keep it in, I want to try. Thanks for asking!

Firearm Season-Keep like it is now. Bow Season-Allow crossbows and only 1 buck. Cut out late youth season. Keep Urban Zones. Antlerless Season doesn't affect our area so it doesn't matter to me.

Make it the same price as the state they are from, just charge what they charge out of state hunters.

Current deer management practices will continue to cause a decline in the number of hunters, old and new. Point restrictions being the leading cause for a declining interest by new hunters who

aren't allowed to take a deer while they see illegal bucks in large numbers. Trespassing problems are also becoming a huge problem due to your "big buck" promotion with no ethical, sportsman like conduct being taught. Not sure I understand wanting to decrease harvest limits and days afield while at the same time including another weapon in the archery season to increase the kill. This seems to go against all that you are trying to tell us. I'm very much against it.

Do NOT legalize crossbows. They are pretty much the same as having a rifle in my opinion.

I understood that more does need to be harvested over the bucks, so why will the antlerless section be shortened? Is there some reason for this?

I can't manage my farm properly with a 1 buck rule. There are bucks that need to be culled.

In certain cases you seek to make things simplified. This makes no sense when it comes to the changes of rules on allowing the use of crossbow during the Missouri archery season! I disagree with allowing the use of crossbows! You certainly will have more people out! It's just another step closer to removing what my children's generation have been taught. It's what my Father, Grandfather, Great Grandfather and so on, have passed on. It's the true sportsmanship, patience, understanding, the connections we make with nature. Our obligation to be stewards of the land! I've been a hunter since age 6. No A-R's or crossbows to entice me! It was the love and passion my father had. That heritage he passed down! Is this no longer a viable approach to the sport? What kind of heritage can my children pass on? Children live in a world of technology! Video games, which reality is no way a part of! So you want to lure them in by giving them a crossbow. The heck with making them put some time in to being an accomplish archer! Just point and shoot! MCD, have you lost touch with what makes a hunter a hunter? I assure you the use of a crossbow is not what gets me out of bed early and in my stand, year after year. It's not the kill either. It's the pride I being a part of something BIG. Something that my heritage was a part of! People I looked up to. A role model. I totally get technology! Thank God for it! I seek those things to make me a more precise marksmen. And practice and practice! I have worked with kids and whenever the opportunity affords, I preach the great outdoors and all it blesses us with. Perhaps instead of using a lure to attract a lot of wanna be and maybe hunters, why doesn't the MCD try to organize programs that could afford less fortunate kids the real opportunity to be taught by volunteer sportsmen the values that will most likely make them lifelong outdoorsmen. Not just shooters. As for older adults, have they not the opportunity to apply for special permits for crossbow? Same rule should apply to all ages. Handicap exceptions. I also oppose the antlerless extension to be shorten because the time of year is effected by foul weather so often. Thank You

I think crossbows should be allowed but do not agree with a one buck limit. I agree with the late youth season starting after thanksgiving. I also think there should be an early muzzleloader hunt in mid to late October instead of late December. Thank you. B.E.

Crossbows during archery season: I believe women, children under 16 and ones with physical disabilities should be the only ones allowed to use a crossbow. Being an avid bowhunter I've seen my share of decent shots with a bow only wounding the deer because the woman or child can only pull back moderate poundage. If you allow anyone the opportunity to use a crossbow

we will have every Tom, Dick and Harry out there that only rifle hunt trudging through the woods just like rifle season! The archery season isn't just about killing something, it's being out in nature, not running into every Tom, Dick and Harry. Do I need to mention the accidents in states that recently allowed crossbows for archery! Please allow women, children and physically disabled people the ability to use the crossbow, but the average Joe should not be able to use one.

I'd like to start off by saying thank you for the opportunity to give my input on the future regulation changes for Missouri's deer management. I am an avid hunter, if I'm not at work I'm usually in the woods with my bow or gun, or reading up on whitetails. I would love to see more mature bucks in the southeast part of the state, where I am from. Many times I don't get the chance to harvest a truly mature buck here, not because I'm not hunting enough or don't know what I'm doing, but because of the low numbers of bucks 4+ year old bucks in my area. Every year I hunt bordering states such as Kentucky and Illinois because I see a lot more mature deer and have better chance of harvesting mature bucks in those states. I believe Missouri is a great place to hunt and many outdoorsmen are drawn to our state every year but it could be even better. With bigger more mature bucks would come even more out of state outdoorsmen and revenue to the state, like in Illinois, Iowa, and Kansas. I think this can be achieved by just a few changes. * Move firearms season out of the heart of the rut. Moving the season would allow many more bucks to slip through from year to year, allowing a more mature buck herd and better quality bucks throughout the state. * Have a split firearms season. With a split during the firearm season you can base the 3-5 day portions around weekends, giving people who can't take off during the week a better chance of harvesting deer. Giving 10 or so days between the two seasons would also give the deer a much needed break from the intense hunting pressure as well. This would be beneficial all around. * Antler restrictions. I know that in many parts of the state this regulation is already implemented, I would like to see it become a statewide regulation, especially in the area that I live. This would allow many of the 1-2 year old bucks to live until at least 3, therefore establishing a more mature buck herd. I think these few simple changes would make a great impact on the deer herd and increase the amount of mature bucks in the state. A few other ideas and comments: *Keep the antlerless the same, if you implement a split firearm season add an antlerless season to the areas that don't currently have one. *Leave the urban portions hunting like it is. *Keep crossbows for people with permit, not everyone. *Keep the buck archery limit at 2 not just 1. *Make more public hunting areas with lower numbers of deer, archery only. *Keep the youth season like it is. Thank you for your time and the opportunity to voice my opinion. If you read this and have a chance, email me back so I know it was received. M.B.

I think crossbow should have its own season, 7 days in early November right before firearms season also antlerless 7 days in Dec. and you need to change the early youth season to mid-October because 90% of nice bucks that are taken are by the adults not the kids and it's not fair to other firearms hunters because early November is the best time for big bucks in rut and still in normal pattern. Thanks M.

I think the current 2014 regulations are just fine. I don't think many hunters will approve the new proposed changes for less days to hunt.

My family own 147 acres in Clark co. and we also hunt in STL co. and Jeff co. We are avid and selective bow and gun hunters. I'm in favor of all proposals except the 2 to 1 archery buck. If I'm lucky enough to shoot a good one early our season would be over. We really enjoy hunting late season. One idea we had was to put a 4 point restriction on the 2nd tag but that may make it too complicated. I'm sure you will make the right decision. I'm proud to call Missouri home! Thanks for the good work, M.V.

Leave the regulations the way they are. Increase the days, don't decrease them.

Move November portion one week earlier than it is now and reduce to 9 days. Adopt late youth season proposals and eliminate early youth season. Eliminate antlerless and urban zones portions. Allow crossbows. Keep archery antlered limit as it is.

I own land in Missouri and bought land because my Grandma was from there love the state. I do not agree with reducing to one buck for the archery season. If by chance I shoot one early it takes away from me to come back to hunt more later in the year. If you reduce the buck limit then the non-resident tag should go down to 125 if that the case. If you look how many archery hunters really shoot two bucks what is the percentage? Far as the doe season goes, yes, I agree to make it shorter and later.

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I'm not in favor of shortening the regular deer season to 9 days, with that being said I'm all for reducing the number of days in antlerless season and also the number of does taken. I would also like to see the number of buck tags allowed to each person be one buck for year combined. In my opinion crossbows shouldn't be allowed either. Out of state tags are too CHEAP! I think we should be a reciprocal draw state, charging states what they charge us seems fair and most of the residents I know would be in favor of this. I also think that having one youth season is a plenty, I would like to see the late youth season closed.

I want the deer season to stay the same, the extra 2 days make it nice to have more time to hunt with different work schedules. Alot of people can't hunt that much or can't get vacation to get off work and I think it's a good idea to allow us to have crossbows legal to hunt during bow season and turkey season and keep the youth part the same, we have 2 youth seasons and that is great and the urban part is just fine the way it is

Leave length of deer season like it is. Also leave youth season like it is. The change for crossbow is ok. We have a HUGE problem in rural Wright County mainly around Hartville area with road hunters. The neighborhood banded together when a neighbor had the road hunters on his

property trophy hunting and leaving the deer lay. We hunt not for trophy, but people in this area rely on the meat to supplement their diet. No punishment ruins it for us.

Disagree with the use of a crossbow during archery season, too easy for road kills, takes away the hunting challenge. Eliminate late youth season, cuts down hunting pressure. I hunt on public ground need every advantage legally available.

I'm opposed to allowing the use of crossbows during archery seasons because they are not physically handheld at full draw, they have a stock, trigger, scopes and these things are not connected to archery. This is more like a firearm so allow them to be used during firearms seasons. They are already allowed during the alternative weapons season. The alternative weapons season has already been compromised because in the past it was for primitive weapons. Today's modern muzzleloaders are nearly as effective as centerfire rifles and are used to harvest the biggest percentage of deer during the alternative methods season. If the conservation commission is concerned about the deer population decreasing, allowing scopes, sabot bullets and powder pellets for muzzleloaders is defeating the idea of a primitive weapon. The easier you make shooting any weapon or the more effective you make it. This opens up more opportunity for children or adults to participate in harvesting a deer. I strongly support the youth seasons and I have several grandchildren that have harvested deer during youth season and regular firearm season. I am strictly a bow hunter and I don't want to lose part of the archery bag limit, so I'm opposed to allowing crossbows, an easier to use weapon in archery season. Seems as though everyone wants everything easier and faster. Hunting shouldn't be easy or fast. By the number of ATV's used during deer season it seems as though most people are losing the ability to walk. Thank you.

Thanks for this opportunity to voice my opinion regarding the changes. First, I would like to suggest that you make the antlered deer limit two by any means of which only one could be by firearm. Second, I would like to say that I don't believe in youth seasons at all so, of course I don't believe they should be lengthened. I have no problem with incentives for youth to hunt such as free licenses etc. However, I don't believe there should be special youth seasons for several reasons. First, the early youth seasons remove some of the opening day advantage for the rest of us as the deer are already spooked and gives that advantage to the youth. The rest of us put a lot of money into the economy and we should be on equal footing with all other hunters. Second, I don't think it is wise to give kids so many special considerations. They grow up self-absorbed enough without adding to it. They need to learn to compete on a level playing field with everyone else as part of their life experiences. Third, there is an enormous amount of abuse of the youth seasons by parents that take kids out that are way too young just so they can extend their own seasons. There are also a lot of guys that buy licenses for their wives and kids that don't hunt so they can shoot more deer. If you don't think this is widespread, you are kidding yourselves. Third, I'd sure hate to see the firearms season shortened. Those days that would be removed are weekdays anyway and not that many hunters are still in the field so those days have minimal impact of deer populations. Also, it is nice to have a longer season for us older seniors. Sometimes we like to skip a day due to medical reasons or during bad weather and it is much

easier to skip a day or two when the season is a few days longer. If anything, I think it should be lengthened a few days. Thanks for your time and consideration. M.T.

Think crossbows would be a bad ideal more hunters in the woods that are not use to bow hunting thinking they have a rifle in there hand taking bad shots. I really think we need to make four point rule state wide and limit the doe harvest. In the mid-90s I would see 10-15 deer a day in northern Mo now I may see 2-4. I think hunting has become more popular and there are a lot more hunters in the woods which means more deer harvested. I would really like to know how any tags were sold, let's say in the mid to late 90s, compared to today. I think with cwd and the amount of hunters the deer herd is falling rapidly. Maybe we should trap the urban deer and move them to the rural cwd areas and place them in the conservation areas that are open for walk in deer hunting. I think the deer population on walk in areas are low. The way it is it would be a win win for everyone. The city folks and the deer hunter. I know the cost would be a factor, maybe you would have to buy a tag for just those areas to offset the price but make it count toward your already harvest limit.

I believe that these changes are a step in the right direction to help manage our deer population for mature bucks and to help bring the total number of deer back up. I also believe that by allowing crossbows during archery season that it will get more people involved in the sport. So I am all for the changes and looking forward to the results of a better herd that they will bring.

I agree with the proposed changes.

Blue tongue is the reason for the deer decline. Keep that in mind when you consider changing regulations. I am seeing a lot of deer inside the city limits where there are less dry ponds. Lower the cost of nonresident or leave it where it is. My two brother in laws bought permits this year and didn't get a deer. If you raise the price they might not come back.

I don't like the new proposals. The firearm part of season is already too short and reducing the number of antler buck in archery season I think will cause a rise in deer population and the state will not receive as many out of state archery hunters.

I would like to see a 4 point rule for firearm season in Perry County. And a 9 day season would be good.

I am fine with reducing the Nov portion to only 9 days. The late youth hunt being moved to 3 days after thanksgiving is an excellent idea. I would be fine with the antlerless season being cut to 3 days as long as the alternative season stays the same. The urban zone portion does not affect me so I have no opinion on it.

I am giving my opinion on the proposed changes here because I don't know if they will be heard at the meetings. I agree with going to a 9 day firearms season, but will not affect most hunters. How will this help bring up deer numbers? Moving the second youth season is a lot better option than in January. Going with 3 days will bring total number deer harvested up. Reducing antlerless season to 3 days is a great idea. I am 100% AGAINST CROSSBOWS for archery season. Deer harvest numbers will go thru the roof if anyone can hunt with a crossbow. Allow 65 and older to use them, people with a REAL medical condition to use them, not just because a 28

year old gets a doctor's note, but it does not keep them from doing anything else. Only one buck with a bow is fine. Not affecting very many people that really bow hunt. Nonresidents should be charged the same we are charged to hunt there state. They should also be last to draw on managed hunts. They will be drawn if spots are left unused by residents. (It costs right at \$400.00 to rifle hunt Kansas) And go through a lottery system. Not on the list but why not have just 1 doe tag total instead of 1 per county. We have a farm that is split by 2 counties and made it one doe only because deer numbers are LOW. This will help bring deer numbers back up. Thank you for your time. D.W.

My main issue is allowing the use if crossbows during archery season. First off, the archery woods are the safest hunting woods. Allowing crossbows would change that. Second, we have enough road hunters and poachers now. Allowing crossbows would increase that. We have enough traffic on our roads during rifle season.

I agree with the changes except I think the firearms deer season should be moved back by 1 week to get the season out of the rut. Please consider making nonresidents pay what their state would charge a Missouri resident who wanted to hunt in their state if they want to hunt in Missouri.

I fully support the Missouri Department of Conservation and the management decisions concerning deer hunting. No one does a better job for any state.

I do not feel these changes will help anybody in this area, but actually hurt them by the loss of food.

I feel that the proposed regulations on deer hunting was a good idea but not effective. Shortening seasons will promote a greater number of poaching due to the shortened season. I think that the point system would be a more effective at raising the population of bigger bucks. I believe using crossbows in archery season isn't a bad idea. There's not a lot of difference between a bow and crossbow and should be legal for all hunters.

I disagree with moving the late youth season to thanksgiving, they already get the best chance to bag a deer in the first part of archery season before rifle season, alternative method should be moved back to here (Thanksgiving). Antlerless season could be done away with completely. If you are doing away with a buck tag for archery, will it be replaced with a doe tag? Currently you get two any deer tags and two antlerless tags. I was hoping that the firearms season would be moved to include Thanksgiving. Crossbows, yes to that.

With the proposed changes you are only making it harder for someone like me. I depend on deer meat to feed my family. We need 4 to 5 deer to feed our family. When the point restrictions were added, it made it harder for us to provide food. My husband and I are both archery and firearm hunters.

Can Illinois borrow some of your DNR guys to get Illinois deer #s back up? Our DNR SUCKS compared to Missouri DNR! You guys should be proud of yourselves!

Nonresidents should not be able to apply for managed hunts. Hard to get drawn without the extra people. I HAVE NOT BEEN DRAWN SINCE 96. Also, it is too easy for nonresidents to get a tag. It should be a draw process. The avg price for deer hunting the following states is \$356

Iowa, \$551 Ill, \$411 Kansas, \$347 Ne \$521 Ok, \$280 Ark, \$300, Ky \$190, Tn \$251. Let's get with the program and raise the cost to at least \$350. The out of state people are the ones driving the outrageous lease prices.

Why do let out of state hunters buy so cheap?

The changes will be great. My grandpa and I will be able to bow hunt together.

My main concern with MDC is I don't understand why you would have your firearm season in the middle of the rut. I am a very avid bow hunter, I monitor about 25 trail cameras on around 4,000 acres. I typically watch around 50 bucks a year and know them very well. As soon as they turn 3 years old I watch over half die the first day of the Missouri firearm season. By the end of the firearm season I have watched at least 75 percent of my buck herd die. I know that the goal of the MDC is to make money and I can tell by the amount of out of state hunters that come into my area that you are, in fact, making money. Personally, I believe you should want to manage our state in the same manor that Iowa DNR manages their deer herd. It's almost embarrassing how the only difference between north Missouri and southern Iowa is the people who are in charge do a better job in Iowa. I sure hope you read this email and put some thought into it and let others know. Also, I looked over the crossbow section, I couldn't be more against letting random people use a crossbow. Everyone wants to take the easy way out. Archery hunting was started for the soul purpose to hunt like the Indians. I personally feel like politics and laziness is the reason the crossbow is even an option. It's honestly a joke. I'm ashamed of how our whitetail deer herd is managed and I really hope to see some change in the near future.

I believe most of the proposed changes make common sense. I would suggest, however, that during the archery season, landowners may take a second buck only on their property. So, if I would kill one elsewhere I could take a second only on a landowner tag. Also, landowners could take two bucks on the land they own. I believe this would be a fair way to allow hunters like myself that manage for deer year round on their own ground, to be rewarded for all of the effort. In reality in most regions like St. Genevieve where I have 100 acres, I rarely take a buck, so the impact would be minimal but the opportunity to pursue buck deer is there for the whole season. The muzzleloader season scheduled during Christmas week makes no sense to me or most others I talk to. The first week of December makes more sense and allows for hunting during the second rut. Christmas week should be for the intended purpose and bow hunting is available hunters have the ability to hunt if they want to. I also believe that with the current state of technology in compound bows the addition of crossbows for youth during archery season is unnecessary. I am an avid archer and have been since I was 10 years old. I think crossbows are great for injured or older archers, but I believe they are an inferior hunting tool and are inherently dangerous. I suggest a special safety class or at least bowhunter education for and testing be required to mitigate the safety concerns and the increased probability that less than lethal shots might be taken by those that believe crossbows are like firearms in effectiveness which of course is not true. I am an avid hunter and supporter of the MDC which is the model for conservation not only in the United States but across the world. I know we face multiple challenges in regards to deer herd management. More important than the kill, being able to observe deer in the woods and

increasing the deer population to enhance the experience is the most important. Based upon what I have observed and heard in talking with most hunters the populations of deer has been so drastically reduced I don't see the need for a doe season except in the areas where CWD might be an issue. Out of state licenses should be priced reciprocally with the states the applicant lives in. \$225 is good overall but the out of state folks should be limited to one buck total all seasons combined.

I personally believe that MDC needs to take the same steps Iowa takes to manage their deer herd. By shortening the firearm season you're not doing anything because most of the young bucks are shot in the first two days of the season anyway. If anything, you should move the firearm season back even if you're are competing with Kansas and Illinois you will still have good results. There is honestly no difference than southern Iowa and northern Missouri except the size of deer and all this comes down to is the age of deer. Missouri's deer die at 3 yrs old and Iowa's deer die at 5 yrs old. I think you need to realize a rifle season during the rut is the worst thing you could do for Missouri's herd. Also, the crossbow season is ignorant. The reason Missouri started a bow season is to hunt traditionally like the Indians. Its laziness if you don't have a handicap you shouldn't use a crossbow. I don't care what the city people tell you, they don't put in the work to be a bow hunter.

These proposals are way off base! There are already amendments for older hunters to use crossbows! If you want to include more youth put an age limit on them! Honestly if they are mature enough to pull 40 lbs back and bow hunt then they are mature enough to hunt. Otherwise they are not! Not that the crossbow thing wasn't bad enough you're going to take a buck away from bow hunters (who's number has grown) this is plain silly. All the other options to maintain a healthy herd and this is your choice? You're going to knock the guys who spend the most time in the woods and give you the most feedback by docking them a buck? I used to have a great amount of respect on the decisions you all made but now you seem to be directed by something else other than the hunter. Makes me wonder if my fight to keep you all tax funded is even worth it with these stupid regulations, they are a slap in the face to a bow hunter! Yes, I hunt with a gun too but aside from hurting a few second weekend hunters no damage to them at all. For bow hunters you're taking away a prize we all love, the late season buck! Then on top of that you're slapping a bunch of people who are too lazy to practice the art of archery with basically a smooth bore shot gun "crossbow"! Anyone who thinks a crossbow and a vertical bow are anything alike has never hunted and should never be making decisions! I have never been disappointed in the Missouri Department of Conservation until I read these regulations. Now all I have to say is SHAME ON YOU! This state is the hidden treasure of the white tail world and you all are about to ruin it! As far as the urban hunting goes, maybe you should work to allow full season archery hunting in these areas seems to work for closed conservation areas why would it not work in urban areas? FYI if you want to increase buck count and mature bucks, try a 3 point antler restriction in the southern part of Missouri. It's too thick and brushy to see a brow tine during the firearms season but three points can easily be seen!

The only positive part about the proposed changes is the fact that the word CHANGE is used. I am in Chariton county, and I put more time than most managing my deer property. Food plots, herd management, LETTING YOUNG DEER WALK, and ethical hunting practices are all some of the things I practice religiously. This allows me to have good hunting, but also gives the out of staters that hunt the neighboring properties a great advantage as well. They harvest deer every year, and keep coming back which in turn bolsters our state's economy. The reason I say this is because I feel that my opinion should matter due to the fact that I do my part to help the deer herd and also our economy through my efforts. I realize that my small contribution isn't enough to change legislation, but I want you to know that I am helping, I am trying, and in the end, I AM putting money into MDC. Not only through my tags and licenses, but also through my efforts to increase the quality of deer hunting in my area. I also run a hunting TV show called "Point of Impact" on the Pursuit Channel which brings awareness to deer hunting in Missouri and advertises what we have to offer from a hunting standpoint. This being said, I would like my opinion to be considered seriously. Please don't allow cross bows to be used in archery season, I beg you. Also I beg that you reconsider the changes to the rifle season. Knocking a day off of the second weekend won't change much, as most of the young and promising bucks are killed in the first weekend. While a rut rifle season and crossbows would allow more deer to be taken, they do nothing for what really drives revenue in the hunting industry, INCHES OF ANTLER. I want Mo to be a state like Iowa. Iowa is a legendary whitetail state and people flock there because of their stellar and successful proven deer management strategies. This status has not been achieved by putting rules in place that allow more bucks to be killed by making hunting easier. It has happened through a conscious effort to grow bucks and let them get big. If we adopt a practice similar to Iowa, we can charge nearly double the \$225 for non resident tags. This will drive income up substantially even if the number of out of state hunters stays the same. To me, this is simple economics. Offer a better product (bigger bucks) and charge more for it. The only way we can charge more is to kill bigger deer. The only way we can kill bigger deer is to have bigger deer. The only way we can have bigger deer is to change our legislation for the better. Adding crossbows and leaving rifle season in the peak of the rut does not further this mission. Please consider a change that actually changes something, and for the better.

I agree with all of the changes except the youth season. I believe too many parents shoot the deer for the younger children, and I believe there should be an age limit of at least 11. I believe there should be NO youth season.

I am against crossbows during archery season. I have had 2 shoulder surgeries and still opt to not use a crossbow. I am still for the doctor release for wounded/old hunters allowing crossbows. Gun hunters will buy a crossbow and shoot it like a gun=many wounded deer. Other issue is with unlimited antlerless tags. Currently bow hunters can thin herds where needed and spread out where we take our does from, not negatively affecting the herd in a given area. Gun/crossbow hunters have proven they will shoot too many deer off a given parcel of land (mainly public). Look at all the public land that had to restrict antlerless harvest due to over harvest of gun hunters. We are going to end up with very low deer numbers on previously "archery only"

ground that was previously as good hunting as any private property. I've hunted Schell Osage for 25 years and 4-rivers for about 8 years. Our public ground "archery only" is very good hunting because of low hunter success (picky and love to hunt, not kill), even when hunter pressure is high. Public opinion of archery managed lands is high because of the amount of game on them. I own 40 acres and prefer to hunt on public because my neighboring property owners shoot every deer they are allowed to shoot and deer numbers are low- less than 1/2 mile away is 4-rivers and plenty of game. Please rethink the crossbows using archery tags/land. Few bow hunters kill bucks every year, with it being rare that 2 bucks a season are taken because we love to hunt and if we kill a 2nd buck we are done. 4-Rivers regulations- There is very limited access to Horton Bottom area, ramp is closed Oct 15th on. Settles Ford river access to hunt 4- Rivers: ramp was covered in 2' of mud and unusable last season (Previous years it is cleaned prior to gun season 1 time). The ramp is unusable after the river rises and drops again leaving a thick layer of silt.

Lowering the number of antlered deer tags to 1 during archery season only limits hunters opportunity without having a significant effect on the number of mature bucks or the deer herd in general. According to MDC's numbers, less than 600 individuals harvested more than one buck with a bow. Taking that second tag away just takes away the hunters ability to chase a late season buck if they happen to tag out early. Even though I know there is a less than 1% chance I'm going to be lucky enough to harvest 2 bucks in a year, it is a lot of fun trying.

I read through the 8 page summery posted on the website. My comments are below. I am for the Firearms Season changes. I am for the Youth Portions changes. I am for the Antlerless Portion changes except I recommend 5 days in lieu of 3 days. I am for the Urban Zones Portion. I am for the Archery Season changes except I would not allow the use of cross-bows under 50 years of age. I believe it would promote less discipline in the field. I am for the Archery Antlered Deer Limit. I am for the Conservation Area Deer Regulations.

I am for all the proposed changes. Definitely against moving firearms season from current time period.

One buck & one doe for archery, one buck & one doe for rifle. The first youth season is fine, do away with the youth season after the regular firearms season. The does are bred and breeding, give them 5 years or so to replenish the herd. NO CROSSBOWS! I feel that's just an excuse to sell more deer tags and pad the pockets of the retailers that sell crossbows.

I would like to know why Missouri is trying to increase the deer population? My parents farm, where I hunt, has a ton of deer on it. We do what we can to curb that population, but, limiting how long we hunt is just going to increase it? Frankly, we have taken great measures to make our deer healthy and well-nourished. More deer will just minimize what our current deer eat, make them smaller and invite disease to spread through the population. My father attended one of your open houses, and the MDC officer there said you base the season's duration, time frames, etc. on the last year's harvest numbers. If that is the case and we took more deer in 2014 than 2013 why are we dropping the duration of the seasons? I don't trophy hunt, I hunt for meat. Shortening the season makes it that much harder for me to fill my freezer.

Thank you, thank you. I approve the changes. My granddaughter can archery hunt with me. We're meat hunters. YOU CAN'T EAT ANTLERS. When I was her age there was no deer season. Then it was bucks only for a weekend. You have done a great job of managing the deer herd and I thank you very much. You have also purchased and managed your conservation areas in a professional way. Make the changes.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment. I am in favor of any change in regulation designed to protect our deer and wildlife and am willing to support the reduction in days if that is necessary. I also support increasing youth hunting opportunities and success rates. I support that change. With respect to the urban zone special season, I am ok with eliminating it, but I think we need to avoid imposing antler restrictions in urban areas. Reducing human deer conflicts is a priority in these areas over trophy hunting. I do not support the expansion of archery to cross bows. I am an avid bowhunter. The hunter who dedicates himself to developing the skill to successfully hunt with a bow is rewarded with relatively less crowded woods and a longer season. I fear some crowded woods in early fall next year with the prevalence of cheap cross bows at stores and on the web right now. If the concern is young and old hunters, I would support allowing young and senior hunters using cross bows in archery season as a compromise. My biggest concern is this - I bow hunt in at Young CA. I enjoy the 1 mile hike to bow hunt in corner where I see few other hunters and the deer pass by regularly. There are many bowhunters out there as it is near a major city, but it's not overly crowded. If archery is expanded to cross bows, please consider restricting our conservation areas to bow only. Otherwise, hunts will get more crowded. I also worry about safety of hikers and people out to enjoy nature. I frequently take my family on hikes at MDC conservation areas. Cross bows are powerful and people mount scopes on them. Many of the folks that buy these online and head out, and never having archery hunted in before, may be taking ill-advised shots on or near hiking trails. There is also no hunter safety requirement for cross-bows, which are more like guns than bows in my opinion. I do not have any objection to limiting archery tags to 1 buck. Out of state tags are pricy. I guess it's tempting to want to limit out of state folks, but I would hate for hunting in this country to look like hunting in Europe - become a sport only the well-to-do can afford. Thank you for all that you do to support Missouri's wildlife, hunting and fishing. It means a lot to me and my family. M.T.

I believe all non-resident tag prices should be reciprocal. Whatever your out of state charges Mo. residents for specific tags is the same they pay to hunt in Mo. It just makes good sense. If, for example, Illinois residents were charged the same as their state charges M. residents, they would get off their rear ends and go to their deer management folks and raise enough stink about it to where Illinois would lower theirs so we Missourians could hunt in their back yard as cheap as they hunt in ours!

*Shortening the rifle portion will help the population rebound, but moving it a little later so it's not during the rut would also help. Many other "Big Buck" states don't have their firearms portion during the rut, maybe we should follow their example. *I don't agree with allowing crossbows during archery season. I am fine with the current regulation that allows people with

disabilities to use them. I feel that with deer number below normal and firearm season potentially being shortened that many firearm hunters will simply go out and get crossbows. Archery methods should require some skill and practice and I worry that the sudden influx of inexperienced crossbow hunters would result in a lot of wounded and not recovered game. We've all seen the hunters that buy a gun the week before firearms season and have it bore sighted then hit the woods, I think the same thing would happen with crossbows.

I feel all your changes are good except the crossbow it should be left out we have more than enough methods of hunting without adding more unless you have restrictions from a doctor that would not allow you to hunt with a compound or recurve bow.

The one area I see the most improvement in is moving the late youth season to Thanksgiving weekend. I am an avid bow hunter and see no problem in limiting archers to one buck. I also think the addition of crossbows to archery season will help with the recruitment of younger archers who can't pull an affective weight with a traditional bow. I think doe harvest should be micro managed by unit from year to year as is feasibly possible.

I agree with the proposed changes. Regulations should be adjusted as needed to balance the many factors involved (habitat, sustained yield, herd size, sex ratios, social factors, etc.). The deer where I hunt are at low density, so taking some steps to restrict harvest seems logical to me. And, in this day and age, anything done to encourage hunter participation, like the youth season and crossbows for old codgers is a good thing.

If a youth firearms season is allowed, I think it should be AFTER the November firearms season. I think the age should be 12 and older. There are pictures in our local paper of 6 year olds claiming to have shot 10 point bucks. I don't believe the young hunters are the people shooting the deer. I would like to see the firearms season shortened by two days with a Saturday start. In our county, the bucks were past rut this year. We saw many (15-20) deer prior to the season start, but during the season we only saw 5-6 deer. The season needed to have been earlier. I agree with crossbow hunting being added and reduce the number of antlered to one during archery season. Missouri Department of Conservation receives sales tax monies, so I think your non-resident deer permit is a bit stiff. Thank you.

I appreciate the fact these recommendations are solidly based on sound science, research and public input. After watching the associated video I support all the proposed adjustments. The late youth season timing is not ideal for my family's holiday travel plans, however I appreciate the rationale and can support the proposed timing because it is likely a better alternative for most families. I agreed when the late youth portion occurs in January conditions are often not ideal for a young hunter. Thanks for the opportunity to provide feedback!

Do not allow crossbows in archery season. We already have alternative weapon season. People that need crossbows can get the permit as they do now. It is archery season why change it or make it easier by allowing crossbows? Can we keep something relatively pure? You guys have made so many seasons and allowed so many permits it is no wonder the herd is thinning. I know several hunter that take 10s of archery deer per year. If we drop the limit to one archery buck per year does that mean our cost of the tag will decrease for residents also? I wonder where you get

your information about nonresident tag prices? The conservation area I hunt regularly is over ran with out of state hunters to the point it is decreasing the quality of the hunt. When I talk to these people most tell me there here in Missouri due to the low price of our nonresident tags. No other state with comparable quality of deer hunting gives there tags away as we do here. Nonresidents should have to draw for tags and there numbers should be limited. Raise the price of nonresident tags. The remaining proposed changes seem logical and appropriate.

If the goal is to reduce the harvest overall then I see two major conflicts with the proposals. First of all why increase the number of deer killed during the archery season by adding crossbows? Limiting crossbow use to handicapped individuals/youth and the elderly will aid in managing the total harvest during archery season. I have no problem with limiting archery tags to one antlered buck but I would guess the number of people actually harvesting more than one buck is very small. Allowing crossbow hunting during all of the archery season will likely end in a higher harvest of immature antlered bucks than the effect of allowing two tags for the non crossbow archer. Second, if Missouri is really serious about improving the quality of deer available for harvest the gun season would be moved to occur after the rut. I believe there are some flaws in the way Iowa manages their gun seasons however the single most significant reason Iowa leads the way in quality deer hunting is that they set their gun seasons to occur after the peak of the rut. As long as Missouri runs their gun season during the rut two things will occur: A) the deer harvest will be significant B) the quality of bucks will never reach full potential because 2 year old bucks will be the most vulnerable during the peak of the rut.

I am opposed to any reduction of the current deer hunting season lengths. The primary reason is that the current lengths allow for flexibility in scheduling mine and mine family/friends hunts. It is not that everyone hunts all the days that are offered but the current lengths do afford some easier scheduling for the times we do hunt. The more time allowed in the outdoors the better. I am opposed to moving the late youth hunt to the first Friday after Thanksgiving. I would like to suggest a possible suspension of the antlered point restriction during archery season only. It is tough enough to harvest a deer during bow season but the APR puts an added layer to this type of hunt. I do not have a problem with reducing the limit of the antlered deer during archery season to 1. I am opposed to allowing crossbows during archery season. If that is the case, why not just do away with archery season altogether and just have one big alternative method season to replace archery season

I like the crossbow part but I would like to see everything else stay as it is now. Please no changes.

First I would like to start off by saying I am very happy to see any action taken to help improve the population of whitetail deer in Missouri! I also appreciate you allowing hunters like myself the opportunity to comment and give opinions on the rule changes rather than just changing them! So THANK YOU! With that being said I am very much in favor of all the rule changes except the allowance of crossbows. I understand the argument of children being able to use them and I am all for giving children every opportunity to hunt. So in my opinion you should set an age limit anyone under 16 and over 65 should be allowed to use a crossbow as well as anyone

with the permit system that is currently in place. This will allow children to get familiar with bow hunting as well as allow elderly men and women that can't or don't want to draw a heavier bow the opportunity to still hunt archery season. These are just my two cents. Thanks Again, K.K.

I am an out of state hunter, and have been hunting Missouri for 4 years now and I have seen a decline in the bucks over the past few years. I totally agree to limit of one buck per hunter per season with bow and gun!

I'm in gave of all the changes. Thank you.

First on the question above you do not have an option for email. I receive your emails, and magazines. I personally support all of the above changes except one, allowing crossbows as a legal method during the archery deer and turkey season. Most rifle hunters only shoot their rifles they day before rifle season to make sure they are sighted in, and then they hunt. I feel crossbow hunters will follow the same practice methods which will lead to many wounded deer.

Crossbows, like compounds, require practice and precise shot placement. Rifles require good shot placement to an extent, but are much more forgiving, and allow for a quick follow up shot. Crossbows should be used during rifle season only. This will limit the amount of time unethical hunters are in the woods. The below question in regards to non-resident deer permit cost. I feel it should be reciprocal. We should charge the same fees as there resident state. It is ridiculous that we have nonresidents drawing tags on managed hunts that residents are being turned away for. This happens every year at Lake Jacomo.

I agree with the proposed changes. The change I would like to see the most is to move rifle season later in the month. Preferably similar to Kansas. Move it away from the peak rut and let more bucks mature.

In my opinion allowing crossbows during the archery season would be detrimental to the avid bow hunters. A crossbow would allow more hunters to be out during those times but that is the exact reason why we bow hunt. The rifle season has become scary in our part of the state in my opinion. There are too many out of state hunters flooding into the mark twain. I'm afraid that opening up for crossbows will essentially force out locals. As far as reducing the number of antlered deer to one that would be a fair trade off for NOT allowing crossbows. I also think the youth season should stay in January or it should be more closely monitored. There are too many parents helping these kids to kill trophies. It also limits the bow hunters. Just my opinions. Thank you for giving me the chance to voice them! S.H.

Allow 1 buck tag per hunter that can be filled during any season and do an early muzzleloader season and move the gun season out of the rut. Thank-you.

I like most of the proposed changes. I think the shorter seasons is a great idea, the deer were getting hammered and over pressured. I'm on the fence about the reducing the archery antlered to one, I have never killed two bucks with a bow in one season but it could be a useful tool to help manage the herd. I do not like the idea of making crossbows legal, I do not see any good in that, there would just be a bunch of people out there wounding deer. Most archery hunters I know a very dedicated and practice and have a lot of respect for the animals. I think if you allowed

crossbows it would open the door to a lot of people who are not and dedicated and ethical. I just disagree completely with it.

I love to see my state working to better our conservation efforts and deer herd. Although, we have a great state to hunt in, there are improvements that can be made. I like the idea of shorting our rifle season. I would for there to possibly be future consideration of moving or even splitting the season. I hope that Missouri will continue with its current crossbow laws. If any changes are to be made here, maybe we could allow youth up to age 16 to also get a permit but not for everyone. As far as expanding and moving the late youth portion of firearms season, I am all for that. Let's give them all the opportunities we can. I would hope that the bag limit stays the same for bow hunters. Or possibly letting them use their firearms tag in the late portion of bow season had it not been filled. I really have no opinion on the antler less or urban season since they do not effect in the southeast. In the future I would love to see a antler point restriction implemented in my portion of the state. Firearms season moved out of rut or split into two portions. For Missouri's management hunts be for residents only. Seems it is impossible to get drawn while out of staters enjoy my states resources. Thank you for the opportunity! J.D.M.

Move gun season to a later date, "out of the rut". Reducing the gun season by two days is a joke. All other proposed Firearms Season Changes I am in agreement with. DO NOT allow crossbows for everyone during archery season. An individual can currently obtain permission to use a crossbow from the state if need be, correct? No need to let perfectly capable individuals and everyone else use a "crossgun" during ARCHERY season. I wouldn't like the archery buck limit being reduced to one, but I can live with that as long as everyone isn't hunting with crossguns.

Well as for myself, I think all sound like good ideas except the crossbow being used during archery season. That to me makes it too easy and more deer would be taken. That wouldn't help our deer population but hurt it. For me, and many hunters in my area, we are having trouble with out of state hunters poaching, killing illegal deer, legal deer and letting them lay. I think we need a lottery system to allow hunters to draw to hunt our state of Missouri. Too many deer are being killed because the deer they shot wasn't as big as they thought and let him lay to go for a bigger one. I'm not the only one who thinks and feels this way. Thanks for reading

I like most of the proposals, outside of allowing anybody to use a crossbow. That will hurt the deer population even more, as more people will get into "bow hunting" because it is now easier, and they don't have to practice anymore, causing more young bucks and does to be harvested. In addition to the proposed changes, I would also recommend moving the regular rifle season to the end of November or early December. Having the rifle season right during the rut results in way too many young bucks being harvested. Which is why Missouri isn't mentioned in the same breath as Kansas and Iowa, when it comes to big whitetails.

I agree with all proposed changes but strongly feel that more considerations should be given to us older hunters who become limited in physical condition as we grow older. I would propose that season extensions and timing given to the younger generation should also be given to all Missouri seniors, say 65 and above.

I feel the limits set on antlered and antlerless deer are a good way to reduce the deer kill and do support that part of the proposed changes. I typically get 1 deer each year, which is enough for me. The last two years, I have not. I have attributed it to when I am available to hunt and Mother Nature's weather allowing me to do so. I only hunt on the weekends and the Monday/Tuesday before Thanksgiving because I take those two days off to do so. Reducing the season will make it even more difficult for me to do so and because I am unable to take off work during the week portion of the new proposed season, I won't be able to enjoy this pastime.

I am for the proposed changes with following exceptions: 1. The November portion could be shortened, but should be later and out of the peak of the rut. 2. Under no circumstances should crossbows be allowed during archery season unless a hunter is disabled and cannot draw a compound.

I would like to say thanks for everything that MDC does to help protect and better all of our states wildlife. I think it is time that we take a serious look at moving the rifle season out of the rut and allowing crossbow hunting. Our states without a doubt has the potential to be equal to Illinois and Iowa in regards to our whitetail hunting quality. However it simply won't happen until we move our gun season in my opinion. this is going to be a hard change to make because it won't be popular with most people but without a doubt will improve our deer herd which is really the most important thing. Making hunting harder is a good thing. I understand that most of these probably aren't looked closely at but those of us that don't just like to hunt but truly care about our whitetail population are in favor of this change. When you look in a magazine and it lists top whitetail states we want to be on it. It's time to follow suit and make the changes to improve our herd like our neighbors. Thanks

I live in Pulaski County and hunt both national forest and Ft Leonard Wood as well as neighboring Laclede County. I have hunted the same areas since moving here in 2012. This season I saw more than double the amount of deer than 2012-13 combined. On Veteran's Day alone my wife and I did an all-day sit and saw more than 20 deer. Between the beginning of the season and thru the end of gun season we counted more than 100 deer that we saw in the areas we hunted. A large of mix of bucks and does. Young and mature bucks as well as spikes. Some counties may need a change in numbers taken, however not all counties in the state are the same with their herds. The gun season ending on a Tuesday never made sense to me, so reducing by 2 days to 9 seems like a good idea. Out of state fees are low compared to some neighboring states. Also considering a draw for out of state tags would perhaps be beneficial as well. State wide antler restriction. Give the young bucks a chance to grow. I have no issue allowing only 1 buck during the archery portion. It may give the younger bucks a chance to live and get bigger because most hunters will be a little more selective.

I am in favor of all proposed regulations changes for 2016-2017. I have noticed a decline in my local deer population in St. Francois County, as well as my primary hunting location in Shannon County. I feel these changes will help the population rebound fairly quickly while reducing antlered deer taken during archery season will help buck-to-doe ratio that would be thrown off by decreasing doe harvest from the shortened antlerless portion. Allowing crossbows will greatly

increase archery harvest and bring in more revenues from permit sales. On another note, I also support antler restrictions to improve buck-to-doe ratios. However, think landowners should be able to use "cull" tags to manage their deer herd and remove undesirable genetics for small racks. Cull tags would only be available from your local conservation agent. The hunter would need to provide the agent with proof that the deer is undesirable, such as a trail cam picture of a mature deer with a small rack. Then, the agent could supply a permit for the cull tag that could be used during any portion of deer season. Once the cull tag is filled, the hunter must contact the agent to confirm it is the appropriate deer. Any inappropriate deer would be confiscated and the meat donated to Share the Harvest and the hunter would be unable to apply for a cull tag the next year. Just a thought. Thank you and I appreciate all that you do for hunters.

Yes-reduce the gun season to 9 days! No-don't lengthen late youth season to 3 days! Yes-reduce antlerless portion! Yes-allow crossbow during archery season! Yes-reduce antlered bucks during bow season to one!

I would agree with maintaining the current timing of the November portion and reduce the length to 9 days. From my own perspective I would like our gun season similar to Kansas (post-rut December), but for bringing kids to the sports I like the current November timing. Expand the late youth portion to 3-days beginning the first Friday after Thanksgiving: Would NOT support this change. The deer have already been hammered hard by gun season. This change would give the kids the early youth season, regular season, and late season ALL in the same month of November. I think allowing the deer to receive less pressure would be nice for hunters hunting the late season (December) and having a January late youth season would be feasible. And if place around the New Year holiday, the kids would already have off from school as would parents from work. Reduce the length of the antlerless portion to 3-days and begin on the first Friday in December: Would support both measures. Eliminate the urban zones portion: YES. Most of the urban hunters are bowhunters anyways, and many of the urban areas have firearms bans anyways. I say eliminate this portion. Allow crossbows as a legal method during the archery deer and turkey season: No, No, and again, No. Of all the proposed revisions, this makes the least sense. We're trying to help deer populations rebound...by releasing more hunters into the woods during archery season? Archery hunting is growing by leaps and bounds in Missouri without crossbows. Already bowhunters harvest 19% of bucks harvested in Missouri. Men, women, and kids are flocking to TRADITIONAL archery tackle. I believe that crossbow manufacturers are behind this push and it's all about the \$. When I have limited days to hunt and I am frequently limited to hunting public ground, I do not want to have to run into any more hunters than necessary. This is part of the reason I bowhunt. Many of my public ground haunts I wouldn't dream of hunting with a gun because they would be overrun with hunters. Already as a bow hunter I have people messing my hunt up. They have a right to be there too, so I'm not faulting them. But neither side appreciate the encounter. Regardless of the impact on the number of deer taken, an across-the-board crossbow allowance WILL increase the number of hunters present in the woods and WILL decrease satisfaction of current hunters who take the time and effort to master traditional archery. Concessions I would make on this point: (1) allow crossbows

during late archery season, (2) allow crossbows in the currently-outlined "urban zones, and/or (3) allow young hunters to use crossbows through age 15. And course, continue the crossbow exemption for those hunters with documented medical disabilities. Reduce the limit of antlered deer during the archery season to 1: Yes. With a 2 buck overall limit (1 gun, 1 bow) per hunter, I think hunters will be more selective and hopefully pass more younger bucks. Simplify conservation area regulations by limiting methods and use of firearms and archery antlerless permits: Simplicity would be appreciated. Methods is one way, though I also like the Talbot area's restriction on antlered bucks only during gun season; that way hunters are not blasting away at everything that moves. I wouldn't mind seeing point restrictions in SW Missouri as well, but I don't suppose that will ever happen. Non-resident fees shouldn't be any higher than they already are. I understand that we can't sell ourselves short compared to our neighbors (KS and IA), but at the same time, someone needs to take a stand. I think it is hypocritical for state conversation agencies to thump their chests about how family-friendly the outdoors are and how they want to see families hunting together when they charge such outrageous permit fees. This isn't Europe. Hunting shouldn't be purely a rich man's game or something reserved for celebrity hunters on outdoor videos who write off the fee as a business expense. I live in Kansas City and may shortly find myself having to live on the KS side for work. The property I grew up hunting in SW MO, my dad's farm, may be all but lost to me and my two sons based on the unreasonable hunting fee prices. As I look to pay bills and save for my boys' college, I may have to tell them they can't hunt grandpa's farm. Ridiculous. By comparison, Indiana is only \$150 and they have lots of record book bucks that haven't all been killed by nonresidents flooding the woods. Still pricey for my blood, but I can stomach it. The bottom line is your average hunter has less money to go around. We're a mobile society, which means people frequently go out of state from their family's traditional hunting grounds. When they come back, they have a dilemma about whether to hunt or not because of how downright expensive it is. Who has money just to shell out a couple hundred bucks for a day or two of hunting? I have heard of people scheming to get around the high prices by hunting on an in-state family member's permit. Is right? Clearly no, but states are pushing people to weigh the risks of such behavior when they charge an arm and leg for a piece of paper that lets you go sit on the ground next to a tree and soak up creation with no guarantee of even seeing a deer. Just because states can set hunters back a third of a house payment doesn't mean they should. Time to be different, Missouri. Thanks for what you do, MCD!

Not a fan of only 1 buck for bow hunters. Like everything else. How many bowhunters kill 2 bucks. Seems like you are caving to gun hunters.

What good are those changes for the deer herd. The majority of the deer are killed the first week getting rid of the last Mon. & Tues is not going to make no difference. Move the rifle season out of the rut like all the surrounding states and Mo also would have deer like Iowa, Illinois and Kansas. Jesus, doesn't take a lot to figure that out. My family has a 237 acre farm in Sullivan county and it is sad what I've watched it become in the last 3-4 years! I manage it personally and I'm the only one that deer hunts it! The age structure and numbers has gone to h--l to say the

least do to your seasons and liberal limits! I moved to Iowa 3yrs ago now and it is amazing the difference in the age structure! I have a great lay out in Sullivan County Mo and only kill 41/2 plus year old deer. This year I did not for the first time in my life buy a firearms tag. Because out of 10 cameras running on the farm did not have one mature deer on camera the entire year prior to rifle season! This farm has it all and I can't believe what it's become. I used to have 3-4 mature deer on this farm every year! This year the biggest was a 125 inch 3 year old that I'm sure someone blew away while he was running hard during the rut! Get rid of doe season and get the rifle season out of the rut everyone that I know that is a true hunter and not just out there to get away from there wife is in agreement with this! I have many friends who hunt and want the best for the deer herd & they are all on the same page! Quit listening to the politicians, insurance companies, and worrying about money and for god sakes do what's right for the deer herd MDC!

Leave November firearms portion alone. Crossbows should only be allowed for disabled hunters. Implement 4 point restriction statewide for antlered deer. Keep alternative portion as is.

As an outfitter that has seen the effects of poor Conservation and two disease's kill off a lot of deer, I would strongly support moving the rifle season out of the rut. So we kill the buck, during the rut that may or may of not breed a doe. Then we turn right around and have a antlerless season after the deer have been breed. Antlerless seasons need to be in October and rifle season should be the same time Kansas rifle season is. Which is the first week of December.

All the changes appear reasonable. Thank you for considering these changes. Please consider specifically the use of crossbows for archery season. I think it would encourage more young people to try archery. I know I will be able to spend more time in a blind with my young sons and start teaching them sooner. I will also be able to spend more time in the woods as I have significant arthritis in my shoulder that can sometimes prohibit the use if a traditional bow. Thanks again, J.S.

I would love to be able to use a crossbow in Mo. It's legal in TN and it's what I'm used to hunting with and since I switch to a crossbow from a bow I have lost 0 deer. As far as the 9 days hunting from 11 the draw to Mo is hunting the rut. With a one buck limit I don't see how this will really help. I love hunting Mo.

I like all of the proposed changes, except making crossbows legal to hunt during bow season. Crossbows are closer to guns than bows, if someone wants to hunt with a cross bow they should be allowed to during gun season. Also, the rule should be a 2 buck limit total whether you shoot the bucks during bow or gun should not matter.

"Allow crossbows as a legal method during the archery deer and turkey season" I do not like this idea. If you want to manage deer then why give every one permission to use a weapon that is easy to kill a deer with. Hunting will be easier with a crossbow and more deer will be killed. I don't want a bunch of young hunters using crossbows. "Expand the late youth portion to 3-days beginning the first Friday after Thanksgiving" I also don't like this idea. I feel that it should just stay the same because they have the best deer hunting time during the rifle season.

I agree with all of the changes except for the addition of crossbow to anyone during archery season. I believe that the restrictions on crossbow should remain the same, or what you do during

the rifle season will be countered by an increased number of archery hunters that will use crossbow in archery season. This would allow those hunters an additional buck (2 if the above change is not instated) which would not help in getting more mature bucks either.

I am in complete agreement with all of the proposals, however, the one other modification that I would suggest would be moving the November firearms season to begin the last Saturday of November or the first Saturday in December.

Crossbows should not be allowed during the archery portions. Older hunters and those with physical disabilities should be allowed to use them but making crossbows legal across the board will increase the number of deer harvested in the archery season. This will hurt Missouri's deer herd, and hunting related revenues for several reasons. A higher percentage of deer harvested during archery season will result in less opportunities during rifle season and an overall increase in harvested deer. With less deer to hunt, and less opportunities in gun season, out of state hunters will begin to favor our neighboring states over Missouri, not to mention the impact on the herd itself. I think shortened firearms seasons will certainly help increase deer numbers, and I wonder if changing firearms season to shotgun season would be a viable option, as I know that several of our neighboring states are shotgun only, and they certainly have healthy deer herds. Please don't allow crossbows.

As a land owner, we need to control our deer population. If we reduce the time hunters have to hunt or change to dates that our hunters are not usually reducing the deer population, how does that benefit the population? Please consider what changes could do, thank you for this chance to view an opinion.

I am a wildlife and property manager with over 7500 acres in Scotland and Knox counties. I am in support of the proposed changes to the wildlife code. If we look at neighboring states (in which I manage an additional 12,000 acres) A one buck per season for both residents and non resident only allows the buck population to MATURITY which is the goal of all respectable managers. Illinois did not follow the Kansas or Kentucky guidelines in this respect and now hunters are leaving in droves. Please help us in making Missouri the number 1 whitetail destination in the Midwest. The potential to achieve this is possible if hunters will self-regulate and the state will continue a proactive approach. As far as the cost of non resident permit, the cost could go to \$300 and still be under neighboring states. As I have seen the Missouri DNR will spend the extra revenue wisely. I would like to see some portion of the money spent towards educating hunters on the importance of deer maturity and letting them walk. The number one reason in the entire US that hunters shoot young bucks is that they know their neighbor will if the deer crosses the fence. We need a "work with your neighbor campaign " sponsored by DNR. Thank you

I think that reducing the November portion of the firearms season to 9 days wouldn't have a huge impact. I think to have a bigger impact on increasing the deer herd in MO, it would be more beneficial to move the gun season to December. Having that many hunters in the woods with rifles during the peak of the rut takes out a lot of deer. That leads to my next thought, which is move to shotgun or muzzle loader and get rid of ARs. I think reducing the distance a person can

shoot at a deer and the number of shots they could fire off would help deer numbers. I'm for expanding youth a day. The more kids hunting the better for the future of conservation. Also agree with reducing the antlerless portion. I'm not against cross bows, but I don't exactly see how it helps increase the deer population. I also don't see a huge change either way, it would add some hunters but probably not a significant number. I'm an avid bow hunter so reducing the number from 2 to 1 wouldn't be great. However, we try to manage for mature whitetails, so the idea that I would have a chance at more than one in a year isn't great anyway. If this would help I would be in favor, but I'm not sure it would have a huge impact. Thanks for listening.

We need to be able to harvest more deer. They are destroying our farm crops.

I don't like the idea of adding crossbows to the archery season. It is an unfair advantage to more traditional bow hunters and in my opinion raise deer harvest drastically. I also would like to see the modern firearms season moved from the peak of the rut. I do appreciate the effort you are taking to listen to your resident hunters opinions.

My name is SFC B.J., I'm a Missouri resident but stationed in Oklahoma. For the upcoming changes with the herd numbers being low I would recommend the change to go back to a 9 day firearm season with point restrictions. Also with changing the antlerless season to only 6 days not 3. Crossbows are the new craze but allowing hunters without a disability to hunt with a crossbow would only increase the number of hunters in the field and raise the chance of lower numbers but I am not completely against the idea. My recommendation would be to limit all hunter to 5 deer total for the year and only 2 bucks with at least 4 on one side in any combination on weapons. For example, if you bow hunt and you shoot a buck you cannot take another with archery until after the late muzzleloader season. But you could still hunt does. Then you could take your second buck during firearm season or muzzleloader. And you're only allowed to take 3 to 4 does total for the year across all seasons. As for nonresidents license, the price might be comparable to other states in the area but for those that only have a few days to actually hunt maybe coming up with a 3 or 5 day tag system at a reduced price or allow veterans or active military service members to purchase tags at resident prices.

A few thoughts: Crossbows ok during archery season. Most states already have that in place. I don't use one presently and probably won't unless for medical reasons. Gun season shorten by 2 days: I'm ok with that. If I don't shoot one opening weekend, then I generally don't see a buck I after that during rifle season. My preference is to hunt with my bow. To reduce the antlerless portion to 3 days won't be of great concern. With regards to antlered deer, I'd keep it as it is today. I "trophy" hunt the first the first part of the season, then second half, I follow the rules of the area. I normally purchase a couple of antler less tags so I can fill the freezer and donate to the Share the Harvest program. I hunt primarily in St Clair county and have seen more deer the last 2 years then I have in the last 14 I've hunted in that county. Youth season I have no issue with and urban zones I normally I don't hunt. Believe though that is where more tags need to be looked into for hunting those areas. Conservation areas need to be more consistent in what's allowed (bow, rifle antlered or antlerless) makes me not want to hunt public ground because of those issues.

I understand and agree with most of these proposed changes. I would have one issue I'd speak against; Allowing a crossbow to be legal to all hunters during archery season. I understand it would raise more money as more archery tags would be sold to people who have never before toted a bow into the woods. In my personal opinion it's not really archery. As a bow hunter I practice year round in order to keep myself in peak shooting form and to have the confidence to take an animal cleanly and in a humane fashion. Crossbows are much more like rifles and can be sighted in once and require no more effort. The added difficulty to get into range of a deer with a bow is why archery season needs a longer period. I feel it's not fair to true archers to legalize the use of crossbows to those who are physically able to use a bow. I also fear that there will be many hunters flocking to the woods who will not be fully educated on the requirements to make a humane kill with an arrow or bolt. As much as crossbow technology has advanced they are not rifles and cannot be treated as such. I foresee a large increase in wounded and unrecovered animals. With all of the other proposals meant to reduce pressure on our deer herd I think allowing the use of crossbows (for those who are physically able to use a compound or traditional bow) would have an opposite effect. I personally think it will add pressure to our herd. But that's just my 2 cents.

Why are you changing things, it is fine the way it is. Everyone can't be happy. There are plenty of opportunities for everyone. Limit antler less rifle and alternative tags. Not everyone can go rifle hunting so leave our bow season alone

Firearms Season Changes: I agree with maintaining the current timing of the season and would like to see the days decreased to 9. I like the idea of the added day to the late youth season, but not the timing. I have a 12 year old boy and we hunt fairly hard from Sept 15th thru firearms season. I think leaving so soon to hunt again on a holiday weekend may be more than the spouse could take. I really like the idea of changing the antlerless portion to three days and the first Friday in Sept. Eliminating the urban zones is fine with me. Archery Season Changes: I strongly disagree with adding crossbows as a legal method during archery season. I understand if you are handicapped and don't have a choice. I think it is great in this case. Archery has been around way before guns, and I think shooting a crossbow with a scope is no different than a gun. What is the challenge in that. I hope it doesn't change. I am fine with reducing the antlered deer to one. Conservation Area Regulations: I am fine with this.

If you want to help the population one easy way would be to take away over the counter tags for out of state hunters. There would be a lot less hunting pressure and the people that actually live in Missouri could actually go out and hunt. Alot of resident hunters can't find a place to hunt just because all the out of state hunters lease all the ground, but all the conservation is worried about is making money. One other way to help buck size is make it to one buck a year bow or gun. That would make everyone more selective and there would be less killed. Another way would be move rifle season to December, that way bow hunting is only open during the rut make our season like Iowa. Final note, out of state hunters ruin hunting for many Missouri residents. They lease all the ground and make it to where we don't have anywhere to hunt, but to MDC, all out of state hunters just bring in lots of money. Just shows how much you care about residents.

I am in favor of all the 2016-2017 deer changes under consideration.

I hunt in Franklin County, a county that has a good population of deer. I think the current regulations are fine for Franklin, and that deer populations should be studied and regulated by individual counties. That being said, I would disagree with allowing crossbows during bow season. Just about anyone who uses a rifle could use a crossbow, but it takes more skill, training and commitment to hunt with a bow. I would support limiting individuals to 1 buck per archery season. I would support making the gun season 9 days instead of 11 and reducing the antlerless portion of the season. I have a young son and don't support extending the youth hunt. Those hunts would be colder, less effective and less enjoyable for the younger hunters. I don't have a valued opinion on the other changes as they wouldn't affect me or my hunting party.

In favor of all the changes, especially the crossbow. I think it will help bring more youth to hunt in the bow season.

In favor of the crossbow and youth season changes.

I'm all for the crossbow I think it would be great.

We need to move the gun season to the last part of November and keep the youth season before and after the rifle season

I think the crossbows should not be allowed for everyone. This is going to take away from the time that actual archery hunters have from the guys that look for the easiest way to kill a deer. I do like the idea of moving the second youth season after Thanksgiving.

I commend you all for taking action to make change. It always seems to me that one generation is trying to hold on to something the next generation wants nothing to do with. I sure would like to see more thought given to the possibility of not only moving the rifle season back a week, but also, to opening it on a week day to prevent the flood of people into the woods. It would be less pressure and actually safer. Not a fan of the crossbow without a permit. That will increase pressure in all of the wrong places. But, it should be maybe made easier to get that permit. A test or competence course, given by the MDC, for a price. All in all, even though moving the season back was everyone's hope, it's a step. Cutting the season back is a heck of a good step. Please give consideration to the above thoughts. It would work well.

I agree with all the changes except for the one buck limit for archery season. You want more hunter participation in archery seasons with the inclusion of crossbows, but I think reducing the buck limit will reduce hunter participation during the archery season, especially after firearms season. I have been a compound bow hunter for over 34 years now, and I fully support the use of crossbows in archery season for all hunters, as well as regulations that increase participation during the length of the season for those dedicated to archery equipment. I also think reciprocal agreements should be put in place for non resident hunters from bordering states. Our non resident fees are too low in comparison.

I am requesting that during archery season hunters be required to wear orange. We live next to the corps land where anyone can hunt. We have had archery hunters cross our yard at dusk, sit at the edge of our yard, trespass, etc. because they don't think we will see them. I'm tired of this

going on every year. And now that you want to allow crossbows, we feel very strongly that hunters absolutely need to wear orange. The main problem are with your own conservation hunters. They don't want that. They won't even consider it. I want you to check statistics and see how many are injured during archery season because hunters aren't wearing orange. We are firefighters and help with life call rescue. We really want to see hunters wearing orange during the archery season. Please, please consider making this rule.

For the most part I do like most changes but I do not agree with allowing crossbows during archery season.

Applaud the MDC for the 4 point restriction. Hunters have an opportunity to shoot larger deer. Youth are getting the opportunity to shooting larger bucks that people have spent a long time chasing. The youth are getting spoiled by shooting large bucks and should be allowed to shoot does only.

I agree with all the proposed changes, especially the use of crossbows during archery season. It's time.

Move rifle season out of the rut and think about being a shotgun state. Making crossbows fully legal would just bring all the lazy hunters out and everyone would be stomping around the peaceful archery woods.

Youth season has ruined my "opening day" hunting since the year it was foolishly implemented. The MDC has partnered with deer poachers all across the state in the name of Youth Season. The reality is that deer poaching by adults during youth season has become popular because the Youth Season is opening day of deer season. It is statistically supported that a hunter's best opportunity to harvest a buck is opening day. That opportunity has been given to the deer poachers and the poaching parents of kids who are unable to hold a center fire rifle much less shoot it. When a kid does shoot how many deer have suffered from the expected large number of wounded deer shot by them? Common sense says a high percentage are wounded because kids do not have the experience of maturity to aim for the vital area.

If you're going to do away with urban hunts then we need to add the 4 point restriction to those zones. Expand 4 point rule further south. Crossbows a must. Some smaller kids just can't shoot a bow. This would at least get them out there more, especially early in the season when the weather is more friendly for the kids. I wish it were as easy to go to other states to hunt as it is for others to come here. \$300 out of state at least. Make them draw.

Shortening rifle season 2 days sounds good. NO TO LEGALIZING CROSSBOWS, except handicapped hunters! Also, raise the cost for out of state hunters to use our resources. Thank you for all your efforts!

I am ok with reducing the firearm season to 9 days, but not shorter. Expanding youth season is ok too, we need to do more for the youth to get them involved in outdoor activities. I think the antlerless season should be at least 5 days because what if weather is really bad 3 days in a row? Ok to eliminate urban portion as these deer can still be hunted during the other seasons, would help to protect some does. I am in strong support of using crossbows the entire archery season as

I have 2 bum shoulders but not bad enough for a medical exemption, plus, it allows other hunters the opportunity to hunt during the peak of the rut. As it stands now, only the radical, right wing, greedy and click'ish compound bow hunters get that opportunity now. Giving more opportunities to more hunters is always a good thing. One bow buck is definitely enough. Simplifying regulations is also a good idea. Thanks for the opportunity to provide my input. Keep up the good work. As an fyi, the farm I hunt in Missouri is owned by my friend J., who is enrolling acres in WRP and we have worked for years with Dan Criggler and Shawn Duckworth. They are awesome folks!

I am for reducing the number of days for both the November firearms and antlerless firearms seasons. I am against legalizing crossbows for the non disabled. In addition, I would like to see the November firearms portion pushed back to either late November or the beginning of December in order to allow more mature bucks to make it through the season. I realize that this proposal was not necessarily up for debate; however, I personally feel that this change alone would be most beneficial to Missouri's overall deer herd and the quality of its animals.

I would like to see the rifle season be later in Dec and not during the rut. The rest of the changes sound great especially the crossbow issue.

It makes it difficult for our hunting party to bow hunt CA's that do not allow the use of bonus tags as some in our party tag out on private land. I would like to see some relaxation on zero bonus tags on these areas. Perhaps even one bonus.

Just read thru some of last year's comments regarding these change issues. Almost all were narrow minded and short sighted. Very little consideration of differences between different types of land that MO encompasses. It is ill conceived to try and manage a states deer herd the same thru-out when considering the size of MO and these differences. But at the same time we cannot get management so complicated that no one is quite sure of the regulations. Little knowledge of what a crossbow can/cannot do. Little knowledge of how muzzleloaders, archery equipment, pistols, etc. have changed over the years. I hunt Harrison Co. Our deer herd is stable and in decent shape. It should not be managed the same as that in the boot heel or elsewhere. Hemorrhagic disease did hit hard, but not as hard as poachers. My family spends countless hours managing our properties for wildlife. Not just deer. But it is very difficult to manage poachers when a department such as the MDC cannot "afford" to have more than one enforcement agent for a county the size of Harrison. That is my main concern. They rely too heavily on a poachers hot line that does not truly scare a poacher as it is too difficult to get proof enough for prosecution and poachers know it. NO FEAR FACTOR. I do not perceive moving the dates or lengths of the current seasons making any overall impact. It would give many people more opportunity to hunt because of holiday time but give approximately the same number less freedom to hunt for the same reason. Pushing the dates back would interfere with predator trappers who wait for the hunters to leave the woods to start predator control work, in effect, shortening their season. In wildlife management, this is a very important subject to consider. I have many more comments. Really too many to post. Best to speak one on one with a biologist.

I hunt in Gasconade county and for years it seems like I have been seeing less deer (less adult does in particular). I would like to see a limit on firearm antlerless deer tags to take the pressure off of the deer herd. I would like to see a hunter to able to take two bucks. One during the archery season and one during the firearms season. I had heard that there was talk about one buck a year, regardless of method. That's fine for those that just hunt during the firearms season as they have always been only allowed to harvest one buck.

Our main issue in Atchison and Holt county is that the public hunting land is getting destroyed. Way too many people hunting on them and 2 and 3 year old 8 points getting shot along with 6 points that get left lay. I have hunted next to the Deroir Thurnau and Corning Conservation Areas my entire life along with my dad and grandpa and friends. Land we farm borders these properties. We see all the junk go on. The wardens do a great job of patrolling but there is no restrictions to size of deer and how many hunters can be on public land. In a 1/2 mile by 1/2 mile section there were 16 deer stands. I count them yearly before season. This isn't counting the people sitting in blinds and on the ground on top of the levee. I watched 2 hunters chase a doe and corner her last year on top of the levee. Is there any talks on helping this matter at all? As a farmer and land owner how can I help?

Firearms season, I am for reducing the portion from 11-9 days, but feel it should be moved at the tail end of the rut. I am all for giving youths another day to have a chance to succeed. I also agree that the antlerless portion should be shortened to 3 days. As for the archery changes, I feel adding crossbow hunting is not something I would support at this point unless the any deer permit was limited to one for both archery and firearm seasons. This last thing wasn't talked about but I feel the permits for non-residents should be on a draw based system to ensure quality deer hunting for the residents of Missouri as a priority.

I believe I am in support of all the proposed changes listed above. I really support reducing the antlerless season.

I like the proposed changes and think that they would help.

I have hunted Missouri many times. Move the gun season back! Yes shorten it, and yes less buck tags.

I think that the rifle season should not be during the rut. I believe that using a rifle it makes it too easy to shoot a record buck. I do hunt with a rifle and I also use my bow and believe it's a better experience harvesting an animal at close range.

I agree with everything except the crossbow thing not everyone should be able to use a crossbow.

I think it's a great idea to shorten the firearm season and to cut back on the doe season. And I think it would be good to allow crossbows. Something for sure needs done because I normally see tons of deer and I sat day after day and was lucky to see 1 a day.

I've always felt we should make non-resident hunters draw for a tag and make it seasons choice. People from out of state lease our local ground up and just hunt bucks. If they had to draw it

would make them less likely to lease ground they couldn't hunt every year. Take some lessons from Iowa.
I agree with all of the proposed changes, that the conservation dept has stated.
I am not in favor of changing archery season to include crossbows. It should remain crossbow use as it is now. Medical ect. permitted. The rest of the changes are fine. I would like the youth to follow the point restriction during their season it is never too early to learn rules.
I LOVE the proposed changes but have a few comments PLEASE DONT ALLOW crossbows during archery season, puts more hunters in the woods that don't know anything about arrows and will end up probably taking a lot of bad shots. Instead of 1 deer archery (good idea) consider what Oklahoma has, 2 antlered deer per year only 1 with gun. So us bow hunters can take two deer with bow and then not gun hunt. LOVE the rest of the changes. Only thing missing is make nonresidents do a DRAW!
I think the rules are good the way they are, crossbows are way too easy to be used it's fun to have the challenge to kill a deer with a compound bow. I would be a very upset hunter about that and shortening rifle season. But back to the crossbows, once people with the right disabilities should be able to use them. I am also completely fine with the changing the youth season, that's the only good idea in this. Leave the two antler buck tags too, would do great. Helps kill off the management bucks.
I like the way the restrictions are now but reduce the gun pressure. Like maybe, move regular season back a couple weeks and get rid of antlerless season all together. Youth season has good placement to make for exciting hunts. I am more of a bowhunter than anything and I would not include crossbows during archery season, unless of course someone may have injury or elderly ect. the way it is now. All that said I think Missouri has some fine hunting. Oh and I like hearing the stories I'm hearing of agents cracking down on land owner tags being misused. Good job. And, poaching fines should be more severe.
I will agree with the November 9 day portion. I don't mean to be selfish with the youth portion of season but if the adults would take more time and hunt with that child during the regular season that would teach them more. I guess I'm saying the one weekend they have is enough. The urban zones should be regulated to how the deer are doing in that area. Archery, the crossbow don't need to be allowed unless doctor approved. As far as 1 antlered deer in archery season, I think it needs to stay the same just cut back the number of antlerless tags allowed with archery. What are suggesting on simplifying the regulations?
I like and agree with proposed changes. I would also like to see the November firearms season moved to a different time when it's not during the rut period
I support all gun season changes. I believe only disabled and youth should be allowed to crossbow hunt. I absolutely disagree with the only one antlered buck during archery season! A very low percentage of hunters ever harvest their two archery antlered tags so why change it? The harvest of bucks has no real effect on the population of a whitetail herd so by changing that law you're doing nothing but catering to the rifle hunters. If you want more does then stop killing

them. The population in my area is booming. This evening I drove the around my block which is around 2 square miles and counted 23 bucks and 132 does and fawns which some bucks have already lost their antlers. And that was just what I could see from the road. Thanks for finally asking us the landowners for our opinion.

Move rifle season back one week, out of the rut. Crossbows will create MORE pressure especially during bow season, bad idea. Decreased bow tags, decreased doe season days, and decreased rifle season days are all good things. Biggest thing is moving the rifle season away from the rut which should decrease the number of deer harvested, especially 2-1/2 and 3-1/2 year old bucks that have good potential. Also, require out of state hunters draw a permit and/or increase the cost for out of state hunters. Limiting the number of hunters will definitely help.

I've been deer hunting south east Mo for 20 years now and things have changed for the better but I still think Mo is behind the boarding states on the quality, and quantity. Way too much poaching in my part of the state. I thought the telicheck was going to cut down on that. But its way worse. A lot of unaccounted for deer die. I would like to see the "average" age of the deer harvested being 3 years old and up, rather than 1 1/2 years old. Way too many young bucks die here in the southern part of the state. I think the antler restriction is crucial for a more mature deer herd. With the sacrifice of passing younger deer within a few years just as many deer will be killed just at a higher average age. Which in return would make hunting in Mo more desirable and in the long run yall would make more money! Also, I'm strongly against a statewide crossbow use during bow season. That should be a privilege of age if anything. Youth season is always during the best part of the season so two days in that time is plenty. Leave youth season like it is. Rifle season needs to be moved out of the heart of the breeding/rut and cut down some. Maybe go to a split rifle season. Like two, three day hunts. Although I'm against taking rifles away and only going to shotguns or black powder. The out of state hunters need to pay more. Majority of states around cost twice as much for out of state tags. I want to say thanks for the opportunity to give my input. I do believe the men/women who take the time to give their input should be considered. We are your main contributors to this industry in our state. Thank you.

I'm fine with these changes. Especially the crossbow part. I would like to see the early youth season moved earlier, like the 1st of Oct.

I am in strong favor of allowing crossbows for all hunters. I am in fine with reducing gun season from 11 to 9. 1 archery buck. I really do like the longer antler less season as I am a meat hunter and it allows me more opportunities to harvest a doe without having to take off work. Fyi, I have never harvested more than 3 deer, but having enough opportunities to harvest 3 allows my family to have a full freezer for the year. Thanks for the opportunity to share my thoughts

1)Move the firearms season later in the year out of the rut. 2) NO CROSSBOWS FOR REGULAR ARCHERY. 3)Eliminate "antlerless" season altogether. 4)Draw/Lottery for non-residents. Even if they all get one, but make them apply early. 5)2 bucks a year total, but only one with firearms. 6)One "bonus" antlerless tag for archery/one for firearms.

I want to state that I firmly oppose the legalization of crossbows during archery season, except for individuals with a special permit due to a medical exemption. I believe that a large number of

people who lack a strong desire to archery hunt will take advantage of it because it is easy. This with harm efforts to improve the age structure of our deer herd. I have had both shoulders surgically repaired and refused to go to a crossbow. I successfully bow hunted with physical discomfort and a cortisone shot prior to my first surgery. I was also successful after rehab and before my second surgery. I do not expect others to do such a thing, but feel that too many people want the easy way. Archery hunters already share the season with a variety of weapon users and the best of the rut goes to the firearm season. The archery season should remain for regular bows (current gear) and crossbows should be kept in the alternative weapon season. Are tag sales going to become more important than what type of opportunities are available to deer hunters? In addition to the above, young hunters are certainly capable of learning to shoot a regular compound bow. They will learn more starting out with a compound bow than being able to reach out and touch the quarry with a scoped crossbow. Do we want to make long time devoted hunters and people with woodsmanship skills or people that are only willing to take the easy road? Many hunters recruited this way may not stick with the sport as well as those who have learned the sport with a recurve or compound. Again, I seriously doubt that more bucks will survive to older age classes if compounds are allowed in regular bow season. Concerning the archery buck limit, I am ok with a one buck limit except that it does limit my ability as a landowner to manage the occasional "inferior" buck. What percent of the archery buck harvest occurs in the second portion of the season? I would be surprised if allowing crossbows did not greatly offset any small gains by limiting archers to one deer. However, if crossbows are legalized, it would be important to limit them to one deer. I would also support moving the firearm season one week later so it is later in the rut phase. I love to gun hunt as much as the next person, but believe this change would improve the age structure of our deer herd. More older deer in the population would add to the excitement of the hunt. Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

Move rifle season out of the rut and later into the season! This will increase both the buck and doe population. Charge more for out of state permits. And please don't allow crossbows year round. That seems very counter productive to helping grow the deer population?

I haven't noticed any drop in deer population in my area. As many dead deer as I see along the roads I am not sure about the decline in other areas either? I don't really mind the changes though. You have done an outstanding job with the deer so whatever your people say needs to be done. When I started hunting we could go a really long time without seeing one. Job well done!

I agree with shortening November deer season and doe season. Remain to only allow disabled hunters to use crossbow during archery season, but during turkey season I believe it would be fine. I think we need to limit the access and availability of over the counter out of state tags. During rifle season it looks like a pumpkin patch out there, I haven't rifle hunted in the last few years because of this. I am an avid bow hunter and yes let's limit the archery buck tags to one all year until our numbers and maturity return. Deer numbers are dramatically down it seems in northern Missouri, let's not have an issue like they have in east Texas where east of 35 they aren't allowed to shoot doe! Thanks and keep up the good work!

I think both the archery idea's would be great.

The rifle season should be shorter. Too many deer are taken during this period.

You need to get rifle season out of November and not be consecutive days in a row and allowing everyone who isn't disabled to use a crossbow is a joke you are gonna just hurt the deer herd that much more you might as well just let everyone hunt with a rifle all year round if your gonna allow crossbows to everyone.

Shorten rifle season a couple days and also cut back on days for muzzleloader season. Do away with the antlerless portion. We need the does if we are gonna get our herd back. Look into what IL and Iowa are doing by breaking up the seasons and maybe going to shotgun only I mean come on where's the sport in shooting a deer in Missouri at 100 plus yards. The big issue is the firearm season that's when 85% of are deer are taken so leave archery season alone unless it's to cut back on the number of antlerless tags allowed. Also look into the number of nuisance tags given to farmers especially in Knox county. There was a farmer up there allowed to shot over 100 deer the last 2 years cause of crop damage. If the farmers are having issues search out other ways or methods to handle things cause if we keep doing that then we are defeating the purpose of changing hunting season regulations.

Taking 2 days off firearms season isn't too bad. Reducing that archery buck limit to 1 is good, but maybe make it a Sept 1 opener. Several states have a Sept 1 opener and have thriving deer herds. On the antlerless portion, maybe do a Friday - Sunday for 2 consecutive weekends. Crossbows should be allowed during archery season. Some people can't shoot a regular bow for reasons that may not be medical. It would give them a chance to get out and enjoy deer hunting without a lot of pressure from fellow hunters.

1. No crossbows, if the herd is already down a bit the deer don't need the added pressure. 2. One archery buck is fine. 3. Move the rifle season back one week and 9 days is enough. 4. Cut the antlerless season back or cut the season out totally.

No on the proposed late youth season. No on the cross bows. Keep the urban and the November rifle the same. Yes to the 3 day doe. I'm neutral on the 1 antlered deer in bow. I usually only shoot one buck a year anyway. I think Bonanza CA need a lot of help. Hunted there almost 20 years and what has been done to that place is an abomination. Deer herd is so scare there. I do love the 4point restriction and what it has done to the awareness of deer management in the state.

Cut back on rifle season days. Do away with antlerless portion. Maybe do a lottery system to give out doe tags during rifle season to cut back on antlerless harvest. Look into doing away with rifles and going to shotgun and muzzleloader only. Take away nuisance tags for farmers. We have farmers in Knox County that are getting away with killing 100 plus deer each year on nuisance tags. This is really hurting the herd. I am for crossbows but only for youth and handicapped individuals.

I would like the Dept. to change to allowing legal use of crossbow during archery season. Please consider this during the 2015-2016 season and 2016-2017 season.

I would like the Dept. to permanently allow the legal use of crossbow during archery season.

Don't follow anything Michigan does, if you want or need suggestions look closely at Ohio's rules and regulations. I live and own property in Michigan but will be spending more time and money in Ohio this year? I'm very disappointed in MDNR and the way they are handling the declining deer herd. Michigan has the 2nd most hunters of any state and everyone can still legally harvest 7 deer.

The allowed use of crossbows by all hunters during archery season would be detrimental to our state's hunting season. Please do not allow this travesty to happen. It would allow extreme over harvest during our already extended archery season. It's bad enough we have an 11 day rifle season during the peak of the rut, and this will further devastate the amount of mature bucks we have in this state. Look at Kansas if you guys want to learn how to manage a states resource, not just maximize the amount of dollars you can make from it. Youth seasons need to be moved so dads stop shooting deer and tagging them with their kids permits, and rifle season needs to be moved. Obvious decisions that HAVE to be changed. Thanks for your time.

Everything sounds good except the crossbow change. I think you will have a lot of hunters take that up since gun will be shortened. Crossbow will negatively affect the population.

In my opinion I don't think allowing crossbow hunters to hunt all year is the right answer. I do like the three day doe season. Personally I would take the doe season out because it makes no sense. Rifle season is for 11 days then you have muzzleloader season for 11 days to kill a doe. Two seasons is more than ample time to kill a doe. Also, it would be a good move having gun season moved to later date in November. This would improve doe population. This would also prevent younger bucks from being killed.

I agree with all the proposed changes. I think that changes in this direction would be a positive move for the MDC. Although I have to admit that it is nice to see more than a few deer per day, like it was 7-10 years ago. Hunting season is enjoyable when having a choice of bucks to look at. The antler restrictions have made a big difference on the buck season.

While I agree with most of the proposed changes, I continue to not understand why out of state land owners are not treated more fairly in regards to the cost of the permits and number of deer they can harvest. I pay income and property taxes just like Missouri residents. Why not put a minimum acreage (like 160 acres) to be considered and treated like other Missouri resident hunters?

Maintain the timing on gun season but shorten it. Please keep the youth season the same. Shorten the antlerless season. Allow crossbows. Research from other states show harvest rate typically remain the same. Keep a two buck harvest. Only one can be taken by gun or muzzleloader or two with bow. Or one bow and one gun or muzzleloader.

I think they should lower the days to 9 from 11. I believe they should not allow bonus tags for archery or gun season. Move the archery season back to October 15 rather than September 15. Along with the 4 point restriction rule they should put into effect an inside spread limit of 14 inches. Only one buck may be taken by a hunter a year would also help. Please don't allow open usage of crossbows!

I don't think crossbows should be allowed unless you have a disability and are not capable of pulling a bow back but I also think MDC should consider on expanding the region with a point restriction to at least 4 points on one side I think that would increase the number and quality of bucks. I know northern Missouri and other parts have this but I think the whole state should be this way. For people like myself that try to manage the quality of deer on their property this would be great

Leave archery season limits alone and no crossbows except for medical reasons. In the past unlimited does in firearm seasons are the problem. Match out of state tags, with the state they come from.

In my opinion the MDC is well behind the curve in caring for the state's deer and turkey population. I hunt throughout several southeast Missouri counties and can say without a doubt the area has been allowed to be over harvested. The push to "sell" tags has decimated the wildlife population by allowing overharvesting. In the mid 80's it was common to see several deer on a daily hunt and not uncommon to hear several turkeys gobbling on a spring morning. That is not the case presently. I enjoy hunting/watching our state's wildlife and believe the proposed changes are not enough to maintain the current status quo and certainly will not build the population to the mid 80's quality. I would support a much more aggressive approach to managing our wildlife. Several surrounding states have successfully managed their wildlife through reduced harvests! At the present time we don't have quality or quantity!

I agree with proposed changes, including the crossbow change! Please continue to make Missouri a great place to hunt and fish, even if we have to curb limits and season lengths in order to achieve it. THANK YOU!

Change the 2 day youth season portion October 31/November 1 - Move to an earlier date in October (prior to 10/20) out of the active pre-rut period that is a highlight for archery hunting. Reduce the firearm days to 9 – yes. Youth season - 3 days beginning the first Friday after Thanksgiving-if dates are changed to early October during the first youth portion, then yes. If not, keep as is in January. Reduce antlerless portion to three days-beginning first Friday in December-yes. Eliminate urban deer zones-yes. Allow crossbows during archery season-yes. Reduce the archery limit of antlered deer to one-yes. Simplify conservation area regulations-yes.

Would like to see the firearms season and antlerless season both shortened. Disagree with limiting the buck tag for archery hunters. Also disagree with use of crossbows for everyone.

I do not think that crossbow should be a legal hunting method for those that are able to draw back a regular bow. Crossbows should be special permit only.

I think all these proposals are a step in the right direction. Especially allowing crossbows during the archery season. Thanks for giving the public a chance to voice our opinion.

I think the youth season makes a huge difference. I think youth season shouldn't be on a date all its own. I believe we should do away with the first youth weekend and let them hunt regular firearms season with their guardians who will also be allowed to carry a firearm and hunt at the

same time. Everyone wins and the deer aren't already spooked from the time of youth season to firearms opening weekend.

First off, I'm glad to see that you are responding to the needs of our state's deer population. I know that your job isn't easy and I want you to know that I personally appreciate the work that you all do. In regards to the proposed changes, here are my thoughts: Although I would like to see the timing of the rifle season to change, I think that reducing the days from 11 to 9 days is a great idea. I don't know how many deer actually get killed those last two days, but any little bit helps. For youth season, I would personally like to see it stay where it's at. That's still hammering on the deer pretty hard during November with the firearms. I also agree that reducing the antlerless firearms portion to 3 days is a great idea. But again, if you move the youth portion to the last weekend in November, that's not giving the deer much of a break. I don't have much of an opinion on the urban portion. If it's not proving to be effective, you might as well eliminate it. For the love of all that is sacred, PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE DO NOT allow crossbows to be used with an archery permit! I think that this would be a horrible idea. The public land is pressured hard enough as it is. Introducing a flood of crossbow hunters would be devastating. Plus, if we're trying to get our herd under control, it doesn't make sense to allow a weapon that will undoubtedly increase the kill ratio. PLEASE do not let this one happen. I also agree with reducing the buck harvest to one antlered deer during the archery season, with a bow. Not a crossbow :) Thanks again and best wishes to you. PS- PLEASE DON'T LET THE CROSSBOWS BE A LEGAL WEAPON DURING THE ARCHERY PORTION!

For some reason the seasons were moved around. Move them back to the way they were if you're going to lessen the length. Black powder or alternative methods used to be the weekend right after thanksgiving and the antlerless portion was in January.

I have hunted MO for the past 10+ yrs. I would love to see the 2nd youth season move to Thanksgiving weekend. Both of my children have enjoyed the youth season over first part of November and I feel you guys have that correct. I feel a 9 gun season is perfect.

I agree with the change in antler buck limit for archery. Also, with the number of days doe season is in length. It should be shorter and not late in December and January, due to antler loss. I do not agree with the crossbow change.

I agree with all the changes, except for allowing everyone to use crossbows. The archery equipment these days is increasing in accuracy, range and power. The true challenge of bow hunting is getting close enough to a deer to make a good clean shot with your bow. Crossbows take away that challenge to some extent. Drop that portion and I agree with the other changes.

Move rifle season out of the rut!

I am in favor of all the changes besides allowing crossbow hunting during archery season.

I like the proposed changes. I have definitely seen less deer in the past few years with the idea of increased doe harvest and EHD outbreak. I see nothing wrong with the crossbow proposal and in fact I wish it would have been in effect when my son was young. I think it would also lead to more lethal shots especially by a young hunter. I always worried about draw weight and

penetration when my son started out bow hunting. This would essentially eliminate the problem or at least make you not worry as much. Every other state is sky high on their deer tags for non-residents. I see no reason why Missouri cannot do the same. This would allow for resident tags to stay affordable to us residents. Maybe even a draw system for non-residents instead of the convenient over the counter.

I don't agree with the shorting of the rifle season. I don't see how dropping a day will affect the herd. I do agree with allowing crossbows to be used all of archery season. I also don't agree with the one buck only. I think the antlerless season should be implemented state wide. We have a lot more does then bucks in the portion of Bollinger county that I hunt. Something else that I feel would be more helpful to the heard is adding more agents to the field the number of road hunters and poachers is at an all-time high where we hunt.

The conservation department has been running our outdoors in Missouri for a long time. You take and take and never give back. The ideas that are out now are for convinces and people not doing their job. Not trying to get on top of the blue tongue problem, telecheck ruined small towns period and open the doors for illegal activity all over the state.

Making crossbows legal would greatly reduce deer loss after being shot with compound bow. It would add more accuracy and range to be able to make a fatal shot.

I believe rather than limiting buck tags we should have an antler restriction. I've had this conversation with many other hunters and all seem to agree that would cut down on the number of deer taken just as effectively as only allowing one buck and it would make for a healthier deer population.

The crossbows should not be an option to everyone. Especially if you're trying to limit archery tags. The archery tags should not be limited. There's so many less deer taken during archery season so why limit even more? Reduce the rifle season. That should help the herd survive. Also it might push hunters into bow hunting. Not crossbow hunting. Thank you so much for everything you guys do! You're truly doing a good job. My 2 cents.

I think the archery limit should be dropped to 1 (one) antlered buck. The firearm season should be moved to later in the year, as compromise to us archery hunters, for limiting the bag limit by giving us the first opportunity at a buck on its feet during daylight during peak rut. I think alternative methods season should be 2 (two) days around mid-December. I also think archery season should end December 31st to limit the number of bucks harvested that have already shed their antlers. Lastly I believe all counties, including Texas which is my home county, should have the 4 point antler restriction. Thank you guys for doing a great job in preserving our wildlife!

I truly hope you guys are monitoring the social media sites and the comments that are being made in regards to allowing crossbows year round. It seems that the majority of people are against it! Please listen to them it will not help increase the deer population!

Honestly, in my opinion, the 2014 regulations were fine. Nothing made me think that we should do things differently. The thing that stands out the most that I do NOT think should happen is

adding crossbows. I am an avid bow hunter, I spend hours and hours in the woods. This does not seem "fair" to some of the hunters who work their butt off with a compound bow. Leave the crossbows to the people who are not able to use a compound. This is my biggest argument out of everything that is being proposed. Here in southeast Missouri we have tons of deer taken a year. I think that adding crossbows would wipe out a lot of the population. Please, no crossbows.

The only change I disagree with is allowing crossbows. They give an advantage the over other archery equipment. They can be used now during rifle and alternative seasons. Please do not allow them archery season. Only disabled hunters should be able to use them.

As a landowner that is attempting to manage deer as well as farm, these changes are ridiculous. I understand the notion that there are less deer, but that is not universally true. Over the last couple seasons I have seen more deer than ever in our area, and It's almost to the point that I worry about competition with cattle and destruction of crops. If I were you folks, I would make tag and season limitations a much more localized decision and cater to the region instead of making these broad sweeping policies. That being said, at our farm and at our surrounding neighbor's properties, we don't want a shorter season and we don't want fewer tags. If we have to compromise, why not keep the season the same length (or make it longer) and limit tags? People that have to work or live farther away from their hunting spots already don't have enough time to hunt. For example, I'm a grad student in North Dakota and I have a really hard time making it home to hunt. I either have to wait for muzzleloader and bow or antlerless later in the year, so of course I would appreciate more time to hunt. On the topic of crossbows, why would this be a good idea? The popular argument today is that compound bows and crossbows are similar in effective range, fps, and accuracy, so why not allow them? Well the answer is that with a compound bow there is still the necessity to draw your bow, thus adding an element of skill in timing that motion so that the deer doesn't notice you. There is also a heck of a lot more effort involved and strength required. Obviously, if you allow crossbow hunting during the general archery season you will find greater harvest rates. It doesn't take a degree in wildlife management to figure that one out, just like how it doesn't take a degree in genetics to figure out that antler point restrictions are counterproductive to growing larger bucks. Basically, what I'm trying to tell you guys is that we'll never again see low deer populations like in the 50s and 60s. Those days are gone. And quite honestly, a lot of what you're trying to accomplish by way of antler point restrictions and limiting tags is essentially mandatory ethics. If you want to have regulations like those on public land, that's all well and good, but you're really going to suggest to a farmer that he can't shoot a 6pt buck that has been living on his farm all summer and eating his crops? If he doesn't care about growing antlers (and you folks shouldn't care either. Revenue from hunting tourism should be your lowest priority), why shouldn't he shoot that "little buck"? And so if I want to thin out the deer on my farm, who does that hurt in the long run? There are other landowners that have very little or no hunting pressure. You need to let people make their own way and make their own decisions on how to manage the deer on their land. I know it's hard being the government and all, but please, stop jacking around with the laws and making it harder for people to shoot deer.

I agree that the season should be shorter during rifle season and that all should be allowed to use a crossbow, only if you take bow season to one buck, but I think if you keep the permits the same cost that you should add a doe tag to make up for your other any deer that you would loose and I also think you should only have one turkey tag with those and offer a second bonus. I also think that youth season should be expanded and check stations for the next few years should be re implemented to better manage our herds.

All of these regulation changes seem to be aimed at increasing the deer population. All except allowing crossbows during archery season. It's pretty obvious that is just a way for MDC to sell more tags.

I agree with all changes. I would support raising prices for non residents to a more equal rate. I would like to hunt Iowa but at \$550 the it is too much. Give them some of their own medicine.

I agree with the shortening of the firearm season, I do NOT agree with the legalizing crossbows during archery season, our local deer herd is defiantly shrinking.

I like anything to with limiting the number of deer tags being issued. I would like to see an elimination of 1 archery buck tag. Two antlered tags, 1 for archery, 1 for rifle, is plenty. I think a positive outcome would be more deer and better quality of deer. With 3 total available tags, hunters are more likely to shoot an immature buck early, just because they can still kill 2 more. I like the idea of shortening the rifle seasons. I do not like adding the crossbow to anyone. Way more deer would be harvested this way. I don't think this way would add new hunters to our sport. It's just going to be adding more rifle hunters during the archery season. I would like to see a cap on antlerless deer permits issues statewide, not just certain areas.

I agree with and support all of these changes. Another nice change (if crossbows become allowed) would be to just make all conservation areas bow only. No guns at all (except maybe black powder). There's too many people on conservation land, and you never know when or where they are. Most people I talk to feel these areas are too dangerous to hunt in during gun season. Just an idea. Thanks.

I believe the limited number of doe tags that was in effect will show next year good call there. It appears to me that we lost a lot of deer to disease not hunters so I don't think shorting the season will do much except hurt people like myself who enjoy the later part of the season when the weekend warriors are burnt out on hunting. As for crossbows, I don't see a problem with it. Here is my suggested proposal, why don't we raise our out of state license? Don't make Missouri the cheapest place in the mid-west to hunt! Yeah we may lose some revenue but everyone I know that is a serious hunter wouldn't mind another dollar added on to in state licenses if you had to have more money! This should also cut down on number of deer harvested, heck what about an out of state lottery for rifle hunters looks like it worked for Kansas. Oh yeah, as for the one archery buck, not interested! Late season bow hunting is tough with alternative season and late youth (which I love and one more day on that shouldn't hurt) the bow hunters that are still out there are conservationist themselves. More than likely hunting a mature buck. Thanks hope this helps. B.F.

I disagree with lengthening late youth portion, I disagree with the use of crossbows during the archery portion unless your disabled.
Reduce it to one buck for archery and shorten antlerless to three days. I still think crossbows should be limited. There's really not much difference between them and a muzzleloader when it comes to shooting and range.
I agree with the proposed regulations. Don't like only being able to kill 1 buck with archery equipment. Welcome the crossbow change, it will help get some younger hunters out that can't quite pull a 40# compound. I would like to see early season Alternative Methods hunt before Firearms Season and state wide 4 point restriction.
I would like to attend a meeting and hear the options explained in detail! What is the closest meeting in my area and the date and time?
Reduce firearms seasons to 9 days. O.K , 3 day doe season O.K, crossbows O.K but don't like just 1 buck for bow hunters. I don't bow hunt but go with my grandson. First buck he takes most of the time is not a wall hanger. Most of the time a buck you want out of the herd. Then the second buck we hunt for is a big one or none at all. Mainly enjoying time in the woods hunting with my grandson and hopes of a big buck. I will try an attend a meeting.
I am very interested in the use of a crossbow during the archery season. I recently bought a crossbow to use during the alternate methods season and I would be thrilled to be able to use my crossbow for the full bow season. I do not like the reduced antlered buck limit or the timing of the second youth season. I thought the purpose of this second season was to give young hunters an opportunity to use guns they receive for Christmas. Moving the season up seems to defeat this goal.
I am an occasional hunter but frequent target shooter. I have used both a vertical and crossbow and have found that I am much more consistent with the crossbow than the vertical bow. With a crossbow I can shoot as far and as well as my father or brothers. If I have trouble cocking the bow I can always use a crank to help pull it back, but it definitely levels the field for all archers regardless of physical ability. Including the crossbow in the full archery season would give me many more opportunities to hunt with my bow. I do wish the regulation regarding the number of buck would remain the same so I would get the same chance my brothers had to put a trophy on the wall.
Firearms season changes: 1. Maintain the current timing and change the season length to 9 days. I am very disappointed in the MDC for pulling what I call a bait and switch on this. There was promise of potentially moving the timing of the season OUT OF THE RUT. I am so sick of the MDC using the argument that its "tradition" for the season dates to be where they are during the rut. We are slaughtering our deer herd at their most vulnerable state and it's ridiculous. There are a large majority of hunters that want the season moved. YES! As far as reducing the season to 9 days that's fine. I don't think it will make much difference though. 2. Expand the late youth season to 3 days and move the dates from January to Thanksgiving weekend. I don't think this is the youth portion to be moving. The reason the late youth portion was set where it was because

you wanted these young hunters to be able to use their new gifts from the holidays during this portion, correct? The portion to be moving is the first youth portion. I don't think young children should be in the woods hunting during the pre-rut/chase phase of the rut. Yes, hunting should be exciting and of course everyone wants to see good action. However wouldn't it make a whole lot more sense to have kids in the outdoors hunting when deer are in feeding patterns (you know, the main thing deer do, EAT!) rather than them trying to lock in on moving targets. I will never understand the logic of the timing of that early portion. It should be in September! I am all for increased opportunities for the youth so I am in favor of moving the late youth portion only because the deer are less skittish, the weather is better and you are increasing their opportunity with time in the field. 3. Reduce the length of the antlerless portion to 3 days and begin first Friday in December. Yes! Reduce the gun fire, period. Way too many days of gun fire and pressure on the herd. 46 days of straight gun fire is not very smart from a management perspective. 4. Eliminate urban portion. I don't know anything about the urban zone portions so I can't give an answer either way. Archery Season Changes: 1. Allow crossbows during archery deer and turkey season. I have never shot a crossbow. I am an avid archery hunter who has used both traditional methods along with compound methods. I practice with them year round. I mainly hunt with a compound bow though. I do have some concerns about allowing crossbows during archery seasons, but I am open to trying it to see how it goes. 2. Reduce the number of archery buck tags to 1. No! Is this a joke? I can understand your concern by adding crossbows you naturally think you have to limit the buck kills now because you anticipate a greater number of hunters hitting the woods. There is a VERY small percentage of hunters that shoot more than 1 buck with archery tackle. If the data supports making this change because crossbows were added or any other reason then maybe it could be looked at again in the future, but there is nothing to suggest this change needs to be made. Conservation Area Regulations: 1. Simply methods of use. I am not well versed on these methods so I have no comment either way.

I am an avid deer hunter, often spending most of the year prepping for the big opening day. My son loves to bow hunt but I have found the new bows too difficult to comfortably use. This results in me spending more time at camp than out hunting. If I could use a crossbow during the archery season I would be able to enjoy many more hunts with my son. My son and I are both in favor of keeping the archery deer limits the way they are. It is hard enough to talk a deer into coming within bow range to let that trophy buck go.

Crossbows should be allowed in archery season. I use one now because of my back. But they have been around longer than compound bows. They are not like a gun. You must spend more time practicing. Young shooters can manage a crossbow easier than shoot a higher poundage. A lot of other states allow them during archery season without any problems. I say it's a good thing. I can believe a young shooter getting a deer with a crossbow better than I can a really small one shooting a 270 -30-06 and getting a deer without help holding the gun.

Get rifle season out of the rut!

As an avid archery hunter, the MDC has my full support. I have not rifle hunted in excess of 20 years. I only pursue trophy animals and I am not a meat hunter. I see plenty of deer during the

season and enjoy that more than any kill. The MDC has done great things for Missouri and all wildlife has been given a chance to thrive. These changes will help everyone and benefit the deer herd.

I like the current timing of the various hunting seasons. I've done my own management around here and having chased away numerous poachers with little follow-through from MDC agents. I've reduced my number of doe taken to encourage a healthier herd for next year and hope poachers don't return. Back to regulations: I'm amenable in a slight reduction from 11 to 9 days. I'm okay with youth season going from 2 to 3 days. I am against antlerless going from 12 to 3 days. I'm okay with eliminating urban zones portion. I'm all for crossbows as I can't use my compound efficiently anymore (age 53). I'm all for reducing antlered archery from 2 to 1. I'm all for raising fees for out-of-state. I purchased land and moved to the country 10 years ago and take just enough to feed myself for a year, pay taxes for owning land. Out-of-staters can use our resources at a premium cost. As far as poaching, I'd like to see penalties increased and more support from MDC when I call in reports. Well, that's my opinion if our opinions do matter in this upcoming regulation change.

I have property in Jackson, Lafayette, St Clair, Worth, Mercer, Harrison, Camden, and the most damage I receive from deer are in Jackson and Lafayette counties. The urban zone should be left as is. If changes are needed for health reasons of the herd then do what the biologist feel is best. In this economy the small game has probably even diminished a bit as well. People need to eat. Final thought, it seems that I have seen more road kill this year than most. Example, KC to Eagleville "I -35" years in the past we would see maybe 6 to 8 in the median or easements. This year more like 15 - 20. Hope this helps. Thank you for all you guys and gals do for us landowners and the people of this state with the conservation of our states resources. I have passed the torch of tradition to my son and he will soon be passing it on to his son in about 6 more yrs. Thanks again from all in my family. - SS

Stop issuing handfuls of tags! The farmers get handfuls of tags then hunt on government land. Farm tags should only be for farm hunting.

The problem is GUN season! I am a serious deer hunter and so many of our young bucks and does are killed in the first fire arms season. Look at the harvest numbers. The herd is not hurt with bow. The youth season needs to be earlier (out of the rut) and the first firearms needs to be moved later (out of the rut) and the extended doe season needs to be canceled completely. All you can go on are the facts and the harvest numbers are the facts.

The seasons being shorter is a good thing, but allowing crossbows is a bad idea. If you are trying to slow the number of deer killed why are you allowing crossbows with a longer range and ease of use all season. The only way they should be used is if you are handicapped. You are allowing more people that don't know how to bow hunt to wound deer and never report them. So how is adding crossbows all season a benefit? They should only be allowed in the rifle and alternative season.

First I must thank the MO Dept of Conservation for creatively finding ways to make changes that improve hunting and the hunting experience. I feel that as myself and my family has owned

farmland in the state of MO since the mid 1800's my voice should be taken into consideration. I don't have many strong opinions on the considerations but I do have a couple. I am very much AGAINST the use of crossbows during archery season ESPECIALLY during the early portion. Bow hunting is extremely difficult and making it so much easier to take mature bucks with a much easier device will deflate our efforts to allow mature buck numbers to increase and in some cases limit the success of true bow hunters. A much larger portion of crossbow hunters will be novice hunters and generally would be less selective about their harvest as well as their hunting tactics being subpar instead of top notch. Give bow hunters, the highest sportsman in all of these categories, every advantage to keep game unaware of hunting pressure and more opportunities for close range bow shots on mature animals. Every single advantage. Period. HOWEVER, I would be in favor of allowing the use of crossbows during the portion after firearms season and the late season for crossbow hunting to continue (alternative methods) but only during or after firearms season. Continuing to allow disabled hunters to use crossbows during archery season is fine. Being a bow hunter for years I can't imagine not being able to go if I were injured, disabled, or simply getting too old in the shoulder to be able to effectively bow hunt. Archery season limit to 1 buck. I'm fine with this too. If an avid hunter arrows a buck and then shoots a buck during firearms season and they aren't satisfied they can go to another state and pay the fees to do so. It's not like there isn't other opportunities out there and 3 mature bucks is a bit much. Meat can be obtained by antlerless only portions or doe tags. Thank you for doing a fine job and I hope my voice is heard.

I agree with the changes in general but the one I am most happy to see is the crossbow change. The more people in the woods hunting is more people on our side.

Keep the antlerless season length as is. People have a hard time taking off work and the extra days are a way of hunting or staying outdoors. Don't cram more hunters into only three days. No to the use of crossbows for the archery season. Makes it too easy for those not dedicated enough to use a regular bow. I have missed only one deer season since 1968.

From what I understand, MDC is wanting to lessen the amount of deer harvested by reducing number of days for firearms season, antlerless only season, and lowering the limit of bucks allowed during archery season. If the goal is to allow our deer herd to comeback after bouts with EHD, as well as, (for a lack of a better term), over harvest, why would they allow the use of crossbows in archery season? As an avid hunter, I see fully the potential that crossbows have to make harvesting a deer so much easier. I do not think they should be considered "cheating", but they do give a great advantage over traditional or compound archery equipment. I believe crossbows do have a place in hunting, excellent for handicapped hunters, but as an acceptable method for all hunters is wrong. If MDC is to allow crossbows, they may as well allow using dogs for deer hunting, and one might even go as far to say that providing bait piles is ok. Not a good idea MDC, not at all.

I think that the firearms season should be moved back to the Friday after Thanksgiving, and should be cut down in the length of the season. The first youth season should be in late September or early October. The antlerless season should be cut down to 3 days again. As far as

crossbows is concerned, well I am a bowhunter, and I know that some people cannot shoot the traditional bows or compounds well enough to be able to harvest a deer cleanly. So if some need a crossbow, then yes it should be allowed, but I would say have a special season for the crossbows. One thing that I do not like is the Alternative Season, I think that it should go back to be muzzleloader only again. As far as I am concerned is that we go back to having to decide to hunt with a muzzleloader or a rifle during the firearms season. There are a lot of people that if they don't harvest their deer during regular firearms, they run out and buy a muzzleloader and have no idea what they are doing with them. Also, I feel that until we can get our deer population back up, that we may want to go back to a draw system on doe tags or just cut them back to one antlerless deer per season. Then the non-residents, I feel like we should charge certain ones a higher price than others. Look at Iowa, Illinois, and Kansas. They are outrageously high on their non-resident tags. I know that Indiana is probably the lowest cost for non-residents tags. I know that the MDC is wanting to make money to help with our maintenance for the public lands that we have, and I feel that the farmers are taking away a lot of hunting ground when they clear out fence rows and draws that use to hold deer, quail, rabbits, pheasants, and other small game animals or birds. I am the president for one of the oldest archery clubs in Mo., and I get to hear a lot of people's views on the hunting season's and what the farmers our doing to our wonderful state's hunting land. I have to hunt public ground, for which I am one of many that cannot afford to buy my own land, or even lease any land to hunt on. The farmers are charging a arm and 2 legs to be able to lease ground. The public land is overcrowded during firearms season that I will not go during firearms season unless I am able to go with a friend on private ground. Where does it end for the ones that are less fortunate? I hope that you all find my thoughts and feelings helpful, and thank you for all that you do for our sport and heritage of hunting and fishing.

I believe to help our herd, reduce the number of antlerless tags that are available and maybe impose an antler point restriction to more counties. And move the firearms portion away from the main rut in early November and make firearms portion early December. My biggest problem has always been with the kids! You want to get them involved but only allow 2 days for a youth season! Take a look at Kansas for example, the youth receive a week! That gives a kid a better opportunity than a 2 day hunt. The kids are MDC's future let us the hunters pass on the heritage and build that foundation. Thank you for this opportunity to voice our opinions!

I like all of your proposed management changes except for using crossbow during archery season. I have only archery hunted for 3 years & love the challenges it offers. Today's crossbows are almost like rifles so let's keep it fair and leave those in rifle seasons thanks!

I think this is a good idea. Deer numbers where I hunt in Mo has declined greatly because of disease. The numbers of deer seen this last year's season was bad.

I want to thank MDC for staying on top of this. The American White Tail Deer is one of the most beautiful animals! Put regulations on our hunts with the help of Missouri hunters is a great thing. I say the poaching that goes on is the first thing that needs addressed! Some people bag way more than what they have tags for and some people find it hard to get one. We need managed hunts! You go 4 or 5 years of one deer during firearm season and 2 during Archery and

only combined can you have 2 bucks and in Dunklin, New Madrid and Pemiscot- no bucks, archery or firearm for 5 years!

First what are you basing your "Decline" numbers on? Are these changes warranted this soon? Missouri has started producing more and more big bucks. With that in mind most of my friends and I wait for the big boy and may settle near the end of the season either thru bow or gun season rarely both. These tactics will most always drop your kill numbers but does not change the fact there are plenty of deer. With that in mind, as an avid bow and rifle hunter the only changes I would make, not based on any study just on my personal belief, is there should only be one buck allowed to be killed by bow and one by rifle. Also, rifle season should only be 9 days long starting on a Saturday and ending on a Sunday.

All good ideas, crossbow for sure. I think whatever each state charges Mo. hunter is what they should have to pay.

Do NOT include any crossbow season into the archery season! It is not a "bow". It is a shoulder fired, trigger activated, scope mountable weapon. Exactly like a rifle and shotgun. Perhaps restrictions for a 4pt one side rule contributed to the increase in deer population. That mentality just supports trophies can only be a large antlered deer which is the wrong message you send to our youth hunters. Sad MDC makes such important decisions only because you are supporting the companies that manufacture & sell crossbows. That itself is deplorable & a slap in the face of bow hunters in MO! Again, do NOT allow crossbows into archery season!

Reduce firearms hunting length to 9 days and reduce bagging limits for a short time

As a hunter that works away from home a lot, as do several people I know, shortening the seasons cuts what little amount of time that I get to hunt. Limits on kills would be a better source than a shorter season. The number of deer in our area, although down from the past several years, is still abundant.

I like the late youth season the way that it has been. The season coming after Christmas give my sons the opportunity to use any hunting gear that they received for Christmas without having to wait until the next November. If you wanted to add the 3 days after Thanksgiving without taking away the January season that would be great. The early youth season is perfect the way that it has been, my sons have got to see a lot of deer movement with the season falling prerut or at the beginning of the rut. This makes for a great experience for my sons and I to enjoy together. One concern of mine about the proposed November late youth season is the conflict it may cause for families that have to be out of town for Thanksgiving, or for the youth whose parents are no longer together and have to try and fit a lot of Thanksgiving celebrations into the one weekend. I also wanted to comment on the price of non-resident deer permits. I believe that 225.00 is a fair price. That being said, I think Missouri should charge the non resident the same amount that the state that they reside in would charge us to come and hunt their state. If that state's price is lower than the 225.00 then Missouri should charge them 225.00. I also know that other states make you purchase their out of state hunting license along with their deer hunting permit so that should be included in the price of their permit. I have enjoyed hunting for many years growing up in

Missouri and can only hope that my sons have the same memories as I do hunting this great state. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to give our opinion.
In favor of reducing firearm season. Not in favor of crossbows, archery buck tags, or changing youth season. I am in favor of antler point restrictions statewide, that would increase out buck numbers.
I like all of your proposed changes except and that one is allowing cross bows during bow season. I think your reason for wanting to allow crossbows are to help the older hunters because as you age you lose arm strength and have trouble drawing your bow. It would help the older hunters. Why not allow crossbows when you reach a certain age like sixty to seventy years old? I have hunted all my life and don't feel it's fair to use a cross bow. A crossbow is a lot like a rifle only short range. Let's keep it fair for all.
I agree with everything other than the one buck limit during archery season. I'm in favor of keeping that at 2. Two things that I think need to be changed is moving firearms season off of the rut because too many to young, yet legal deer are taken by the "opening weekend warriors," if you will. And raise the price for non residents. Thank you for your consideration.
I disagree with the changes for our area. I believe that the deer population in Lewis county is not as high as many other counties in Missouri because 90% of hunt for meat not just horns. My husband and I wouldn't have the money for meat if we couldn't get 3 deer a piece to fill our freezer for the year. I have been hunting since I was in short pants and never have I heard from my hunting role models or experience myself over population of deer in our county.
I like the proposed changes, including the crossbow.
Reduce the # of bucks.
I, and almost all of my family, hunt and we have not noticed any decline in deer numbers in our region. However, regarding your proposed changes to the deer hunting regulations, I'd like to share the following comments: First point, as long as the length of the season covers the two weekends that sounds fine if you are set on shortening the season. Most of us are unable to hunt that additional Monday Tuesday. Second point, the late youth portion would be fine right after thanksgiving. Many kids are off school then and would be able to hunt with family. It would be nice if youth season was the only deer season open at that time. Third point, PLEASE move the late antlerless season back to January. It's pretty pointless to have it directly following the other seasons as the deer are all scared and skittish as can be. The January season was always nice. We miss it. Fourth, I don't really know, but think that this is probably an issue that should be resolved locally on an "as needed" basis when the herd in city situations need to be thinned out. Fifth, I don't really care either way. No real experience with them apart from selling them at a prior job. I always thought of them as a cheat when it came to bow hunting. Sixth, I agree with this one. I also think that the licenses should be issued the same as during firearm season. i.e. Purchase one tag for one deer or turkey. Seventh, No real opinion on this.

I am for all proposed changes. Very excited about the use of crossbows. It is getting very hard for me to shoot my bow and I am not one to go to the doctor and go through the approval process to get a crossbow permit. Hope it passes.

I support all of the proposed archery changes and the shortening of the regular and antlerless seasons. I would suggest to do away with the youth season all together. There is plenty of time during the regular season and what kind of parent wouldn't be willing to give up a couple days to take their kids. Or at the minimum hold one youth season after the regular season like the proposed timing for the late youth season. Also, on conservation areas I would like to see all of them have the same rules that are in use at Marshall Diggs Conservation Area. One deer a hunter seems fair to me on conservation areas.

Not in favor of legalizing crossbows for all archers during season. I would like to see less firearm seasons and days of it. Youth season should be changed to an early season session or late season session. I'm not in favor of limiting archers to 1 buck tag. I'd like to see more gun regulations not archery regulations. Give our deer a break. Youth season opens and the deer have not stopped gun hunting pressure for months!

Out of state people that own land in MO. should be able to buy resident hunting and fishing license. I don't see any reason to change the length of the season. I like the change on the youth season and bucks during bow season, 1 is enough. Crossbows would be GOOD.

Please allow crossbows as a legal method during the archery deer and turkey season. Hopefully those who cannot shoot a bow will stop wounding deer for an opportunity to hunt outside of rifle season.

Crossbows should only be used by the aging population for reasons that include when you do physical work you wear out your joints and this makes it difficult for you to pull and hold and if no shot presents itself to release the bow. If the gun season needs to return to 9 days until the herd replenishes itself, try it for three years. Two bucks are enough, one archery one gun, not all hunters use both methods. One doe is enough for one permitted hunter unless you have over abundance as in the residential area or if the forest needs relief from over grazing.

I agree with all the proposed changes. I believe it would lead to increased numbers in the deer herds and a larger population of bucks. I also believe crossbows are really safer than bows and agree they should be allowed by any archery hunter.

I personally do not want to see the rifle season cut down so much. I understand why you are wanting to shorten the season. The reason I do not want to are it cut down so much is my job requires me to work 12 out of 14 days. With this work schedule it does not give me much time to harvest a deer.

At a time when the MDC is trying to reduce the number of deer a hunter can harvest, example, shorting the seasons, only one buck with archery, only one antlerless deer per county with firearm, why are they allowing crossbows in archery season. As an avid archer for over 45 years, I have seen how good the young archers can shoot at both NAPS and local 3-d shoots. They don't need a crossbow. And as for as the older bow hunter, when their health declares one can't shoot a

conventional bow, most I know use a crossbow due to handicap conditions. To my knowledge, there is no crossbow organization pushing for these changes. It seems Johnny Morris has MDC right where he wants them, in his back pocket.

I do not agree with shortening the antlerless portion. I do not agree with elimination of the urban portion.

Personally, I believe the length of hunting seasons should be and flow with the decline or increase in deer populations. The unrestricted use of crossbow regulation is unnecessary. Yet another opinion of mine, but bow hunters are fewer and further between, are more dedicated to their craft and more conservation minded. Removing restrictions on crossbows would put more irresponsible "kill em all" hunters in the woods. I understand that all permits raise money for the MDC but more deer killed in an already declining deer population isn't a step in the right direction.

I think the proposed changes are fine. I'm more concerned with creating more opportunities for Spring Turkey Hunting such as all day hunting so the kids have more opportunities to hunt. I moved to Missouri eight years ago from Michigan I think the MDC does a great job this is a great place to hunt and fish. Just fix the Spring Turkey Season.

I think a decrease in rifle season duration, as well as a move of rifle season to a date near the end of November beginning of December would be effective in improving Missouri's white tail population. I would prefer that the current number of antlered deer that can be taken with a bow remain the same.

I believe that the firearm season limit should be put in place. I also agree with one buck and doe during archery as well as crossbows during archery season.

I am 19, I have been hunting with my dad since I was eight years old. I agree with your idea of a three day antlerless deer season and a nine day any deer season. I don't agree with the idea of letting everyone have the right to use a crossbow. I think if you want to bow hunt, and are in good health, they should be made to use at least a compound bow to make it more challenging, but I think you should also keep the number of any deer tags in the archery season the same as they are! I also agree with your three day youth season.

We must raise our non resident tags to a comparable level with the states surrounding us. Our public areas get over run with out of state hunters. If the eventual goal is quality deer management the November portion should be pushed back and shortened like Iowa or Illinois. Deer numbers have decreased in my opinion because of severe drought in 2012 and 2013 and they will recover quickly, the doe season will need to be adjusted accordingly. I'm also not for high powered rifles but I understand the majority of firearms hunters will be resistant to changing. I think each hunter should only be able to harvest one buck a year.

I am in favor of the proposed changes. Two bucks is fair. Please consider the APR on bucks though as some of us want to hunt for meat and the APR hinders that since the reduced doe tag limit is in effect.

I do not live in Mo. but it is one of the states I desire to deer hunt in. Years ago I started bow hunting with a recurve and moved on up to a compound bow. Over the years the poundage of my bows has had to go down because of age and injuries causing an inability to shoot compounds in a manner that would be fair to the wildlife. In the past I would have gone along with the crowd that like crossbows and considered them cheating but last year I had no choice but to go crossbow if I wanted to continue bow hunting. It did not take me long to learn that in reality there is no advantage to the crossbow. My 220 lb. crossbow is no more deadly than my 55 lb. compound. In fact, I was willing to shoot further with my compound further than I am with my crossbow. Something to think about here is that the biggest crowd you will help out are the ones that have supported your program for years through lic. fees but had to step out of bow hunting because of injuries or disability of some kind. An ethical hunter is an ethical hunter no matter what his (or her) choice of weapon is. I do not like speaking against fellow sportsmen (or women) but for the most part I feel the biggest reason some fight the crossbow is they don't want to share the woods or they simply do not know the truth about crossbows. If you will look back the arguments were presented about compounds when they first hit the market. I just took a look at what the out of state lic. cost is in MN. (165.00) so I will have to say your 225 is high unless you want to discourage out of state hunters.

I am on board with all of the proposed changes, except for the archery antlered deer being cut back to only one deer. I feel the economic impact and difficulty of harvesting an antlered deer with archery equipment would deter the hunter all together

I believe that if MO allowed a feeder to be out ONLY on private land during the bow season I myself would be able to manage my herd better by taking some of the old does and or weak deer out. I'm a very picky and conservative hunter. I also believe that it would cut down on a lot of the younger bucks being taken out unnecessarily by hunters that just come in to the area to shoot everything that's legal. Maybe even require a permit to certain lease owners. The deer herd has to be managed by the hunters that are out there ALOT like myself.

I like and agree with all the proposed changes. However, I think the best thing we could do is take the gun hunt out of the rut.

Disagree with changing the length of the season. Some of us use this time frame because of work. Our experience with the youth hunt is more in the fall hunt. While we were scouting we ran into youth hunters, hunting, not good. Disagree with reducing the antlerless portion also. I don't believe the population is lower. We saw and continue to see plenty of deer. I do believe the urban portion is still needed. Someday I hope to apply to one of them. There are a lot of deer in urban zones and should be hunted. I think the crossbow should be used for the disabled. Again, I don't think the deer population is down too low to reduce the number. Thanks!

Please DO NOT allow all hunters to use crossbows. I also hunt in IL and their regulation is perfect. They allow anyone 62 or older to use a crossbow without a permit. If you are under the age of 62 you may not use a crossbow unless you have the proper permit that allows you. I recommend the state of Missouri follow their lead. Archery and archery hunting is a sport. When crossbows become legal for everyone it takes away from the sport itself. It also will directly

affect the archery community and industry. If we're going to allow crossbows for everyone we might as well legalize baiting as well.

I like the proposed changes but don't believe it is necessary to eliminate the urban zone portion of the rules. I was born and raised in Missouri but am currently a non-resident who still hunts in Missouri. Thank you in advance.

NO to crossbows during archery season. Crossbows are like a gun.

Why reduce the firearms season to nine days and let people buy as many doe tags as they want? I say go back to one doe per hunter. That should give the does a chance to produce more young.

Would love to see crossbows allowed for all hunters. I don't use one now but would be interested. Please consider it!

These changes are great ideas to manage Missouri deer herds. I agree with all changes.

I don't think taking two antlered deer away is a good idea. Also, would like to add that maybe be allowed to drop the 4 point restrictions during archery season.

I feel your plan to shorten the season is great. I hunted all seasons, bow, rifle, blackpowder, and didn't see a shooter once. All does had babies so another year without deer meat. My husband has a degree in wildlife management and we see it firsthand living out here in the hills north of Amazonia. People flock out here and you can hear constant gunfire during the dawn light. It's crazy, it needs to be shortened, and tightened up on what can be taken.

I agree with everything but I believe that youth should be extended further for kids to be able to get more of a chance to hunt.

I have no disagreements with the new proposed regulations except allowing crossbows. In my opinion, crossbows are closer to a firearm than a bow. They are far more lethal than a compound or traditional bow. The range, accuracy and speed is far greater. I believe allowing crossbows will only create new problems. Keep crossbow rules as they currently are.

I am strongly against allowing crossbows during archery season. Such a change would invite many more hunters to the woods, thereby degrading the scarred archery season and making it more difficult for traditional archery hunters to be successful. Additionally, many more deer will be killed, which is opposite of what the department is trying to accomplish. And finally, having all of that hunting pressure prior to gun season would likely result in less deer in the woods during gun season. Youth hunters would lose interest because they will be bored. Adult hunters will see less deer and potentially lose interest in the sport. Please don't allow crossbows for the masses!

Shortening the November season to 9 days seems like good idea, but I'd like to see it backed off another week. I'm highly in favor of reducing the archery season to one buck but am not a fan of allowing crossbows for all.

I do not agree with the proposed late season youth portion time period. The hunting time would be limited due to visiting with family during the holiday weekend. The MDC proposed date change would also coincide with the opening of south zone duck season. I personally would rather have the youth portion on the first weekend in December and move the antlerless portion

to the second weekend in December. On a different note. I would like to see at least one optional comment section on surveys.

Everything sounds great except letting crossbows hunt the archery season. It should be left in the gun season portion. Archery hunting is the biggest challenge. And a crossbow is just like a gun!

I like all of your ideas. However, I think youth season should either be moved to early October or, even better, done away with. I'm tired of putting in tons of work and then seeing injured deer, mostly small bucks on my property. Plus the number of large bucks killed by 'kids' is a little bit unbelievable. I've hunted my entire life and if I have to let small bucks walk, everyone should. I'm all for kids hunting, it's our future, they just need to hunt way before the peak of the rut, and have same rules.

First I have offered suggestions before and that went nowhere. Second, I hate always trying to change things. Government just wanting to be bigger. 3rd, if you insist (which you will) on making these changes then throw a bone to the nose horn hunters and offer somewhere in the middle of season a 3 day period where one could shoot any deer. And I mean any. No point restriction and regulations. If you have a tag that says any deer, then let them shoot any deer. I know people who have just about given up on hunting. Multiple times while hunting pass on deer after deer because of uncertainty on points or lack thereof. People give up. Not everyone can afford buying big ground, planting expensive food plots and watch deer walk out into it for hours. Some shots are based on a less than 10 second opportunity. I am about to stop hunting too because I am fed up with MDC. You watch, I could get a number of family and friends to sign a petition and boycott hunting and buying tags. Been asking for the crossbow permits for years. Maybe my wife can now bow hunt. Seasons and regulations I say leave alone. Grant hunters opportunities to fill any deer tags with any deer certain times of the year. MDC complains of lack of hunters and the decline thereof. People work their whole lives to save up and buy a farm just to have MDC tell them what they can and cannot shoot. Some leniency here and there would be nice. Over burden with regulations. Just my two cents.

Include use of firearm antlered tag to be used as second archery antlered tag.

I think the number of bucks taken by one person should be limited to 1 for bow season and 1 for gun season. I agree the season should stay in the same time frame but be shortened. I think the doe season should be shortened with fewer doe permits allowed. I am against having 2 youth hunts. I believe that crossbows should be allowed for anyone during the regular bow season.

I'm all for the changes, especially the crossbow.

1. I support the reduction of the primary firearms season. 2. I do not support increasing the length of the youth season. I believe there to be too many times that either the adult does the hunting or that the child is old enough and allowed to hunt on his own, defeating the purpose of the youth season. 3. Approve the antlerless season changes. 4. No objection to the urban zone changes. 5. I oppose the use of crossbows during archery season, except by disabled persons who are unable shoot a regular bow. The crossbow will substantially increase the number of deer harvested during archery season. 6. No objection to the remaining proposals.

I DO NOT like the crossbow idea, I see no reason There. The shorter seasons would be most logical to do with any real results to come from this.

I want to keep the season as long as it is now for adult hunters. Do not shorten it. If anything, it should be longer.

I would say that the conservation dept. should do what's best for wildlife to be preserved yet also for hunters to be able to not only put food on the table but to be considered in any proposed changes that will restrict our right to hunt and take game.

I'm all for increased youth program dates and bag limit and possibilities. I'm for increased non resident prices. I'm all for decreased season length. We need increased regulations in Donaldson Point area at new Madrid. We also need law enforcement for the area. I think Missouri is on the right track. I really like the efforts and proposed season changes brought by the MDC. Great job, let's keep going. W.L.

Ok here's your RED FLAG! Ok, you have wardens that love to drink beer that road hunt for people entering and coming out of the woods. Just like the hunters that don't like to call there deer in. Please tell me HOW in the world can you get accurate number on the deer herd. And don't tell me honesty. There's too much ground out there for one warden to cover which means just drive around in a truck hoping to catch someone doing something wrong. Instead of walking the woods the way they are supposed to do their job. H—I, can't ever get a hold of ours unless we call 15 phone numbers and by the time we get ahold of him nothing gets done about it because he has no time because of his little side business. P.S. I'm sure I will be hearing about this even though it's the truth!

What good is shortening the firearms season to 9 days going to do? I really wish this season would get pushed back so it wasn't during the middle of the rut. This would prevent numerous road hunters from being able harvest mature bucks simply by driving around. Also, rather than reducing the number of antlered bucks an archery hunter can harvest, why not leave it at two, but make it where if an archery hunter harvests two, then they wouldn't be allowed to harvest another one during the firearms season. I would much rather have the opportunity harvest two antlered deer with my bow and not have to participate in all of the chaos that occurs when the flood gates are opened during rifle season. There are too many "non-hunters" out during this season with absolutely no idea of what they are doing. You can't even really hunt during rifle season; you just have to be in the right place at the right time because of all the pressure. I would also recommend to leave bow season as it is, bow only. Crossbows will increase road hunting and the number of deer being wounded and left for dead. Last, is there any talk of doing away with the antler restriction? I'm seeing a lot more mature deer with only 6 points or less and I fear that this will lead to these genetics being passed on to more and more deer.

I am a Missouri non resident landowner for 17 years. I have witnessed the MDC's management efforts. I tell my friends how well Missouri has managed the whitetail population. I applaud their proactive approach! Since the implementation of the antler restriction, I have witnessed a better age class of bucks. As I recall, that was the goal, mission accomplished. That was huge! Personally, I think the reduced DOE SEASON is a good idea. Hunting was frustrating after the

doe season. I didn't see many deer on my hunts after doe season; in fact, most of the time I didn't see a single deer on my hunts after doe season. I don't know what percentage of hunters are taking 3 bucks a year. I don't know if this needs to be tweaked without knowing the percentage of hunters killing 3 bucks a year. Crossbows AFTER the first gun season or after doe season unless there is a handicap. If in fact the MDC is considering raising the non resident hunting permits, I think the MDC needs to consider lowering the 75 acre requirement to at least 40, like many other states. I manage my property for the Missouri wildlife. I pay taxes as well as the amount of money I spend on management efforts out of pocket. Then I pay the same as someone that doesn't manage their property, pay taxes on it, or own a single acre. Land was originally split in 40 acres. That's the reasoning behind many states 40 acre requirement. Thanks for the great proactive approach! R.S.

If the MDC is serious about improving the quality of our deer then moving rifle season out of the rut is a must. Too many 2 1/2 - 3 1/2 yr olds with great potential fall during the rut to rifles. It seems that the only thing that matters at this time is tag sales. It's time to do what works just look at our neighbor to the north, Iowa. No rifle season, bow during rut and record bucks consistently year after year.

Move the rifle season out of the rut! 80% of my 3.5 year old bucks get killed every year in rifle season. Mo has an excellent deer herd and genetics but I think most of our potential big deer get killed in rifle season. Keep up the good work any adjustment will be an improvement.

If the goal is reduce the harvest total then I am not sure how these proposed changes will do much at all. By reducing the archery buck tags the one, while adding crossbow hunters to the mix will not do anything to reduce the overall deer harvest. I have bow hunted MO for 12 years and have yet to fill my second either sex tag with a buck. Although it's a blast to try and outwit a buck during the late season. I like the reduction of antler less season to 3 days, although I think complete elimination would be fine, as hunters we can shoot does during the regular season so there is no need for the second antler less only season. I actually prefer the second youth season later in the year. The deer seemed to have settled back down from the rut and rifle season. With a little work you can have great success. Plus it allows youth to hunt with rifles they may have gotten for Christmas. I am in favor of allowing crossbow hunting, although I would like to see it run concurrent with fall firearm turkey.

The deer population problem in my area is directly related to the large coyote population. We need to be able to spotlight for coyotes at night. Calling coyotes in the day time works for a while but they get wise fast. We need to be able to curb the coyote population by any means necessary. We closely manage our deer herd, and have even reduced our kills on our property but our personal numbers are still declining.

I think one antler deer for archery is plenty also one antlerless is enough for archery season. I also think rifle season would be fine for 9 days but I think it is a week too late for prime rut conditions needs to be around first of Nov. There should be a 2 deer limit there as well one antler one antlerless. Bow season should be open from Oct 1 to the end of Dec. Youth seasons should stay the same length of days but the dates need changed to the end of Oct and around the first

Dec. The crossbow issue is a big deal for me. Archery season is designed to be challenging. If the MDC allows this to be legal the MDC might as well have a 3 month rifle season! It will also kill the tax that is made off the sale of all other types of archery equipment. It will change the way the deer are hunted and it will give everyone the benefit of using equipment that people who can't physically use a long or compound bow to harvest deer or turkey. I think the MDC needs to think of ethics. The crossbow laws are perfect now (2014). Why change a good thing? I know this is one voice but I love deer hunting in MO and would like to make it better for my kids and myself. Would like to have healthier, more, and larger deer in the future. Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinions.

You need to make special rules for large clubs to take a set number of deer off the clubs. I hunt a property next to ** Hunt Club and also worked for them over the summer and it seems to me I have probably found over 10 bucks dead in water over the past 3 years with NO bullet or arrow holes in them so you figure out what's going on. Granted lots of deer out here but how much of the existing population is going to die? They're not going to come to you with the problem or even admit it exists but I will. I don't want it to get to the point where they're all sick and die. You need to start making rules to have a set number taken off the clubs instead of making rules for the hunters that don't even hardly have any deer to hunt on their farm. Thank you.

Like the new regulations proposed for hunting days. Do not like crossbows unless medically necessary. Too much like shooting a gun they could use them during rifle but not archery season.

Do not shorten the season. I work full time and it's difficult enough to find time to get in the woods. I think there should a second rifle season in January. I see tons of deer in our area in January more than in Nov - Dec.

Maintain the current timing of the November portion and reduce the length to 9-days- this sounds good to me. I hunt every year both bow and rifle. For the past 8 years have always been able to kill at least 2 deer one with bow and one with rifle or both with bow. In the past 2 years I have noticed a drop in deer numbers where I hunt. •Expand the late youth portion to 3-days beginning the first Friday after Thanksgiving- I think this sounds ok but most parents would have to take a day off work to take their kids hunting on Friday. I have 3 kids none older than 6 yet would give more time to take them out one at time so you can take time to explain the hunt and ways that I have learned to hunt deer. •Reduce the length of the antlerless portion to 3-days and begin on the first Friday in December- ok with me. I hunt for meat mostly and if I haven't killed one by the antlerless portion the deer population must be down a lot and I wouldn't want to kill one any way. •Allow crossbows as a legal method during the archery deer and turkey season- I DO NOT LIKE this idea. Most crossbows now days have a scope on them. Too much like a gun in more ways than one. I think that if you do this it should have its own season maybe after rifle season then it could run with bow season. I love bow hunting, don't ruin it by allowing everyone to hunt with a crossbow that's a lot like shooting a muzzleloader with only half the powder load in it. •Reduce the limit of antlered deer during the archery season to 1- ok with me. It would be ok with me if I could only take one for all the seasons this is what I do every year any how just trying to increase my buck to doe ratio.

The only concern I have with the proposed changes is allowing crossbows during the archery season. I do not think that is a good idea due to the similarities to a rifle. You just point, aim through a scope, and pull a trigger. To be a good and ethical archery hunter you have to be disciplined, practice, and make a good choices during a shot for an ethical and quick harvest. That also includes allowing good deer to pass, simply because a good shot is not available. A crossbow takes a vast majority of that discipline and equation out and simply allows for a quiet shorter range rifle to be used. Overall, bad idea for archery season and it diminishes the challenge of the hunt.

I agree with the changes. I do not agree with out of state hunter regulations or cost. I do not like the thought of out state hunters being able to put in for managed hunts. Missouri residents should be the only ones who qualify for the Missouri managed hunts. I firmly believe that Missouri deer tags for out of state hunters should be limited and done thru a lottery, just like Iowa. Let's manage our deer/bucks and put Missouri on the path to Boone and Crocket like never before. We can do this if we limit certain things such as point restrictions and how many bucks per season are allowed and out of state hunters who would shoot smaller bucks just to fill their tags than to go home empty handed.

I do not think that out of state hunters are paying enough for their tags. Also that out of state hunters can come into Missouri and buy over the counter tags but you can't hunt in Iowa without being drawn through a lottery system. Missouri should input a lottery system as Iowa has. I hunt ethically on my property but also believe that bait should be legal here are my reasons. I have neighbors that are farmers that mow down corn then hunt over it, why shouldn't I be able to throw it? Hence they are doing the same thing. I believe that on manage hunts that deer should ear with and at least 4 points on each side. I also agree with the one buck through archery and one through firearm season but also propose that a limit of 2 does per hunter should be enforced due to CWD and blue tongue, due to finding multiple bucks lying dead near water sources in 2012 and 2013.

I have reviewed the video posted on MDC's website. I think all of the changes are positive changes except two. 1. Allowing crossbows during the archery season. I know it was stated that crossbow success is similar to archery methods in other states. But as crossbows are improved the success rate will go up, as it has over the past 10 years for archery. Technology in the crossbow industry has drastically improved in just the last two years along with an increase in hunters using crossbows in other states. I speak of this because I have used crossbows. I have harvested a hog in Arkansas at 55 yards and have shot targets at 50 yards with three shot groups within the size of a baseball consistently with a rest. Meaning that it would be possible to harvest deer well out to 75 yards, doubling the distance over an archer. Like I stated, I shot both and disagree allowing crossbows during the archery season. A possible suggestion would be to allow those wanting to hunt with a crossbow, is to have a two week season beginning on Sept. 15th thru October 1st. with archery season beginning on October 1st. Same limits would apply for either method. 2. This brings me to reducing the antlered limit to one deer during to one during the archery season. I have been archery hunting in Missouri as both a resident and non resident

for many years. I enjoy eating venison, but more importantly I enjoy archery hunting more. I love hunting the late season and trying to outsmart a wily old buck. Most years I have not harvested a one of these old bucks, but love hunting them. The archery season is a long season and I am opposed to reducing the limit to one buck for a season that lasts four months even though it is rare for a hunter like me to harvest two bucks during any one season. A better alternative is to allow only one antlerless deer to be harvested during archery season. I know this would require MDC to create a new tag (antler only) and keep one any deer tag in its current use. The does will get breed, but we need does to generate more deer. I will not shoot a doe during the archery season when numbers in the area I hunt as this low, but I would like to have the ability to harvest two bucks during the long archery season. I really enjoy the great outdoors in Missouri, but management starts at home.

I like the 9 day proposal but needs to start on the first Saturday in November. I also think that the second portion of youth season should be in first part of December it's usually too cold in January for young hunters to be out. I agree that there should be 1 antlered deer during archery season.

I don't agree with allowing everyone to use crossbows. They have a special place in today's deer season and it should not be changed. The use of crossbows where design for people with physical limitations not for everyone. I think the privilege of using a crossbow today is severely abused and should be more restricted not legalized.

In my area there are an abundance of deer during season and after season. I would hate to see the antler less season reduce to 3 days. This is difficult for those of us that work and being able to get to woods in 3 days is often times challenging. I think you have done enough as of right now by limiting the antler less tags. Possibly assess the effect of this.

I think we should restrict the rifle season back to 9 days.

My opinion is, there are PLENTY of deer in our areas. I'm afraid that if you change anything, the problems will get WORSE instead of better! You may be inviting OVER population, creating more disease and more drops in numbers due to over population. Things have a way of working themselves out without us continually interfering. We had disease a year or so back. However, this year had epic numbers of deer harvested. Good, strong, healthy deer. Leave it be.

I for one haven't seen a decline in deer populations. I work for a railroad that comes from Des Moines Iowa to KC. There is numerous deer out there! I have personally seen Large racked bucks and large herds of does! I hunt around Truman Lake and saw more deer this year than in recent years. I would like to see crossbows allowed during now season for all hunters. I have invited more potential hunters to come along next year because of all the success our group had this year! Don't change the seasonal opening or length please!

No crossbows, period. One buck per year of any method, keeping point restriction. Do away with antlerless season until needed, this should be done with common sense, not concern for revenue. 9 day gun season is good. The change in youth season doesn't bother me. Again, absolutely no crossbows! Worry about the health of the deer herd instead of how much money is coming in, this isn't just my opinion it's a lot of people's.

Everything sounds good. Except no crossbows without a special permit like currently. Too many gun hunters without bowhunter ethics will buy a crossbow and expect gun results from a bow.

I personally do not think this is a good idea for the new regulations. During Missouri archery and rifle season we already have an abundance of deer harvested in southeast Missouri. Hunting with a compound bow is much more of a challenge for a hunter and because of that, less deer are able to be taken. I am not against crossbows, but I think there is a line to be drawn. I think that for people that cannot physically use a compound bow, they should have the right to use a crossbow (like the regulations have previously been set up). I fear that putting crossbows into the mix is going to cause the deer population to plummet. Maybe not in the first year, but I see this happening over the years. If you ask me, it's almost like hunting with a rifle all of archery season, you have a higher range of accuracy and an easier preparation. Also, archery season is in for a few months compared to the regular rifle season. Now I do realize that you are wanting to cut the number of bucks you can harvest down, but even at that just think if everyone killed a deer how many deer would be wiped out of the population. This is only my opinion, but I feel strongly about it. I am not even a huge fan of rifle season even though I do rifle hunt. Bow hunting, I will sit in the calm woods and see many deer and so much happen, many times not getting the chance to shoot them because I am limited with a bow. I have seen many bucks while bow hunting and not had an opportunity to shoot, but if I had a rifle (or crossbow) could've taken easily. My time archery hunting is great, but it seems like when rifle season comes in the deer are scattered everywhere and it really seems to interfere with serious archery hunters. It is also amazing how many deer in just a week of hunting with a rifle can be taken. We already have problems of poachers as well. This will just add to traffic on the roads and giving poachers more opportunities. I don't think the deer population is at a point where using a crossbow is necessary. I'm afraid to see how this would change the deer population. My family tries to manage the deer herd affectively. This is hard when you have surrounding properties shooting anything they can. We are definitely not at a point where the deer population needs help. I could gain more from using a crossbow, but I don't like the idea AT ALL. I'd way rather take the challenge than losing more deer in Missouri. PLEASE RETHINK THIS.

I think all the new changes are a good idea and please DO allow crossbow hunting as a legal form of archery during regular archery season. You are doing a great job. Thank you.

I don't think there really needs to be any changes. I believe the droughts we've had in recent years resulting in more diseases have taken a heavy toll on our deer. I also believe they will rebound. This past summer we had better weather and I saw more young deer this season than ever before. That being said the only changes I would not like is limiting firearms season to 9 days and reducing archery season to 1 antlerless.

I don't think that anything should be changed during any part of the season. My grandfather has hunted his whole life and last year the sudden change of only one buck during firearm season cost him a over \$300 for a fine that was an honest mistake. He is almost 60yrs old and never broke the law and even called the deer he killed in. He could have been given a warning for his

first mistake. These changes can obviously cost someone a lot of money especially for the lower class families who look forward to the meat.

I think out of state hunting should stop for a while because there's lots of them coming to Missouri after the big deer and about every one take one home. Maybe stop that for few years. I agree on limiting deer season to 9 days. What if deer season was pushed back til December and not during the rut? Let them mate then have deer season maybe same time just in December.

I do not think that cross bows should be allowed for archery. I am in favor of increasing out of state fees. I am in favor of reducing bag limits or reducing seasons dates to maintain a good population of deer.

I absolutely agree with all proposed changes. The MDC knows exactly what is best and I support them 100%. My father lives in Putnam County and I own property there. I'm looking forward to healthy deer population for many years to come.

The one buck limit during bow season is a good idea but the use of crossbows for everyone is very dangerous. Another change that I would like to see is move the first youth season to mid-October taking less pressure off the mature bucks because the rut would not be in full swing during this time and the younger kids would be able to sit longer due to warmer weather in October.

I would not take days away from deer season, just put a 4 point buck restrictions in all counties. Limit the number of does in all counties to 2 a year and 2 bucks.

I totally agree with moving the youth season to November. The purpose is to interest young people in our hunting heritage, January weather is too cold and unpredictable. As far as the shorten season, I disagree due to the number of rural deer/vehicular accidents. Please reconsider this plan. As far as the survey on non resident permits. It is too much of a blanket rule. There currently is no exception regarding non resident, Missouri property owners. These people own property in this state and pay taxes they are not tourist hunters. This permit cost is totally unfair in this situation, please give this your consideration.

The new plan looks like another attempt to reduce rifle hunting while catering to the archers. If there is a true shortage of deer then reduce all seasons equally.

I think these are great proposals, that are long overdue. The one change that should happen is only allowing one deer during archery and I would hope the same would happen during firearms. I would love for us to protect the doe population more than we currently do. Also, I think fines should increase significantly for violating these rules and regulations.

The proposal I want to comment on is allowing crossbows. It is something that will allow the handicapped hunter the opportunity to hunt without having to go through the process of filling out a form and visiting a doctor. It will also bring us into conformity with several surrounding states. Great decision.

I had a crossbow exemption last year and found that they are difficult to handle. I don't think that crossbows will have much impact on harvest numbers. I have been bowhunting for about 12 years and have never taken 2 bucks (not for lack of trying). I don't think lowering the buck limit

to one will have much impact. I am having a lot of trouble where I live (Imperial) with there being too many deer. They completely ate my entire garden the last two years, hot peppers and all. There needs to be an uptick in harvest somehow around here. My wife had nine deer run across the road in front of her the other day. I am abandoning growing a garden (I love fresh organic vegetables) until I feel the herd is under control. Thanks for all you do, R.S.

I am against making crossbows legal for anyone to use in archery season. Crossbows can be used by handicap and I am fine with that. Crossbows are closer to a gun than a bow, this would raise the number of deer killed. Deer numbers are down now. If you leave crossbows out of archery season you won't have to take away the chance of taking two bucks. I don't know anyone using traditional archery equipment taking two bucks on a regular basis most practice QDM. But I would rather go to one buck and no crossbows.

Crossbow during archery season. I Think it's not ok if that person is capable of using a traditional archery equipment. If they are medically unable to use traditional equipment think it fine to use crossbow.

Only the crossbow manufacturer's would benefit from letting hunters archery hunt with crossbows. Hopefully those companies are not lobbying for this. I extremely enjoy bow hunting and knowing that only other bow hunters are in the woods. I think out of state tags should be higher, most definitely, and youth tags should be a lot cheaper if not free.

I support the current timing of the November portion and reducing the length to 9-days. I support reducing the length of the antlerless portion to 3-days and begin on the first Friday in December. I support Eliminating the urban zones portion. I support Reducing the limit of antlered deer during the archery season to 1. I would only support allowing crossbows as a legal method during the archery deer and turkey season for the 2nd half only of the archery only. I support simplifying conservation area regulations by limiting methods and use of firearms and archery antlerless permits.

I think a nine day gun season is great, most can't hunt during the week anyway! Now cross bow for archery, no way unless your handicapped in some way where you can't pull a bow back! It's called bow season for a season, and face it, they're very accurate, the (cross bow) that is. Antlerless season should be dropped to one weekend! Youth should be combined with gun season like it used to be! It worked for me as a child and it teaches them to hunt with others in the wood to be aware of what's going on around them. I love the eight point rule, it's great and getting one buck before gun season than another after words is great! And doe permits for does during bow season should be the same, one doe before gun season and one after, in areas where there are too many does give the permit out for that area. And on a different note, tags keep going up! We pay taxes to you and then we pay to hunt our deer, it's double dipping in our pockets! Reduce the tag price for residents, just my two cents.

I am in favor of the proposed changes to the Urban season and Youth season. I also favor the crossbow recommendation. It will help keep "old guys" hunting later into life. I would like prefer the NR permits be reciprocal. I would also like to see some consideration offered to Non-Resident Missouri landowners. NR landowners are getting screwed.

I am pretty much in favor of the new changes but would tweak them just a little. I would like to see them initiated for the upcoming season rather than the 2016 season. Another year of does being harvested will mean prolong a company back even more. I would like to see the doe season eliminated for several years along with the reduction in doe tags. I also think that a non resident landowner shouldn't have to buy tags for hunting his land. He pays taxes just like the resident landowners and should be treated as such. As for regulating it like other states, I prefer we have a better state to hunt and own land in rather than be like Illinois. Our dept of conservation stands out compared to others, and I would like to see them treat all landowners the same. After all, the out of state landowner usually does more for the wildlife than the residents. I hope the proposed regulation changes do take effect, and the sooner the better.

I DO NOT WANT CROSS BOW HUNTERS IN THE WOODS WITH ME WHILE I'M BOWHUNTING! Non-resident costs should be equal to our neighboring states.

Do not reduce the length of the November portion of firearms season. You already know the first weekend produces half of the deer killed. The remaining days are enjoyed by those of us who enjoy as many days out as possible, especially in the case of poor hunting weather. If I wanted to hunt in antlerless firearms season I would hunt days when I am not working or busy at home. Shortening that season would only take time away from what I need to do at home, so a shorter season would do nothing other than take away home time. (I would not shoot more deer because of the length of days.) Eliminating the urban zones hunting will not have any effect on rural populations, there are still many many deer in the urban zones. If you truly want to stop resource waste then stop share the harvest. Share the harvest alone will tremendously increase the deer population. Donate beef instead venison if you have to. Crossbows should only be allowed during firearms season or alternative methods season, you can kill deer at the same distance with a crossbow as most people shoot deer with rifles. Simplifying conservation area rules will not change anything other than changing the people that hunt there. Reduce the cost of all tags!

I believe that rifle season should be moved out of the "rut" and that there should not be any season after Christmas. More than likely if you kill a doe after Christmas then you are possibly killing not only the doe, but also the fawn or fawns that she is carrying. Crossbows are fine. You can still only shoot out to 50-60yds and with the technology of today's compounds, with enough practice, anyone could shoot that distance at a fairly accurate rate. After the disease stricken year that we had a few years ago, I also believe that one buck tag is a good thing. I also believe that limiting the doe tags would be beneficial to the herd. We should move the youth season to early October. We should also raise the out of state tag price to be comparable to our neighboring states. There is just as good of hunting in Missouri as some of the neighboring states. Just my thoughts.

I like some of your ideas, but I don't like changing bow hunting to 1 buck. I would say make rifle season later one week out of the rut would do more good than anything. I have been deer hunting for 53 years. I would say not that many bow hunters are killing two bucks per season. I know a lot of what I call hunters also landowners & not very often does anyone kill two bucks. I think it would cut down on a lot of hunters hunting as much, which means money being spent in

Missouri. I have really looked forward to deer hunting all my life & it gives you something to look forward to but if you do this & I or my friends kill a good buck hunting we are done for the season. Your landowners are not killing the little bucks please leave us along. I know about 40 people in Davies county, landowners, & we are not hurting the buck ratio but helping & you are going to penalize the deer hunters. Landowners spend a lot of money (everyone I know) to help the deer & game ratio in Missouri. Please do not do this. Missouri is one of the best places to hunt deer in the world with your management. It is not easy to kill big bucks with a bow. I think we should not make it so easy for out of state hunters & cheap to come in & kill our bucks. Put a limit on out of state hunters & crossbow hunters. The crossbows they make now are dead on at 70 yards & bow hunters are not killing bucks at this range. Thanks.

I like all proposed management changes except restricting the conservation areas even more. People like me who have no private land to hunt, rely on conservation areas and national forest to provide hunting ground. Limiting my options is not what I'm looking for from you. I strongly support going back to a 9 day rifle season and adding crossbows to the legal methods during archery season.

In my opinion, if the deer herd is requiring reduced harvest the reduction should start with non resident hunters instead of resident hunters. Leave youth season alone. Eliminate antlerless portion. If limit archery to one buck, remove antler point restriction.

I support all proposed changes besides reducing the number of bucks that can be killed during archery season. Personally, I don't know anyone that has killed two bucks with their bow in the same year in my recent memory. I believe the real problem is out of state hunters who come to Missouri because they can purchase out of state tags at a reasonable price. I don't know how many deer out of state hunters take each year, but I think a draw system with increased prices on tags would be a good place to start. It's simply too easy for someone from out of state to come to Missouri and take home a large amount of deer. If our goal is to improve the quality of the deer population, it should be for the citizens of our state first.

I agree with most of the changes except the late youth portion. I feel it needs to be done away with if you're going to shorten regular season and change to one buck with archery, why expand another youth season? Don't make any sense if you're making changes to grow the herd, cut out one youth season. Growing up my father took and taught me to hunt during regular season. We didn't have a special season that honestly, some kids don't even leave the house. Their parent kills it for them and tags it, so why keep expanding it?

I fully support the list of changes proposed, especially the use of crossbows during archery season. I have two family members with crossbow permits and last summer I suffered a broken neck which left me with nerve damage in my hands and left arm. Needless to say, I missed my first bow season in 40 years of bowhunting since age 12. Having target shot crossbows both before and after my injury I can say certainty that I don't believe crossbows offer any hunting "advantage" over conventional bows. I personally found the crossbows more difficult to shoot. As someone now with a disability and in their 50's (and with an 82 yr old father with a

pacemaker who now can bow hunt again because of a crossbow permit!) I definitely can attest that allowing crossbows will help keep older bow hunters active in the sport longer. Thank you.

I agree with all the changes except one. The crossbow part. I have been bowhunting for many years and have always thought about hunting with a crossbow. There are pros and cons with this. You want to open archery season to include crossbows, I read somewhere that there used to be around 100,000 archers when the season was changed before. Now it reads that there are 180,000 archers. You propose the season changes to bring the overall herd size back up to where they should be but by opening archery methods to include crossbow, I believe that the number of archery hunters will increase substantially which also means more hunters reducing the population. That in itself would be counterproductive to what we are trying to obtain. I do support the idea of bringing more people into the sport of hunting. However, archery season is almost 3.5 months long and adding crossbows will greatly increase harvest numbers. In the past crossbows have been in the same category as firearms. What I am suggesting is to have a season just like the firearms season yet separate from the regular firearms season. You accomplish getting new hunters to field yet at the same time minimize the impact on heard size.

1) 100% Support for using crossbow in Archery Season. 2) I would like to be able to fill my "Firearm" any-deer permit (i.e. Buck Permit) with archery methods only during the 2nd Archery Season if I am unable to fill during the first Firearms Season. Thus, I would like to have one Archery-Only Any-Deer Permit, and one permit that I could fill during Firearms Seasons or during the 2nd Archery Season with archery methods only. This slight tweak to the Firearm permit would not change the number of bucks I could harvest (currently at two under the proposed changes), but would preserve the expanded the hunting opportunities. Expanding the opportunities would increase the sales tax for the state through additional lodging, food & beverage sales and help out the outfitting businesses as well.

I like the idea of making the crossbow legal in archery season. Also I would love to be able to muzzleload the last week in October. Maybe an earlier muzzleloader season would be a good idea because last years conflicted with the holidays. Also, what about making the antlerless season 5 days and extending muzzleloader season?

The changes seem fair enough. My concern is still with youth season. I see way too many dads without kids hunting. My other concern is how many firearm shots I hear during archery season. My honest opinion is that it is not hunters following regulations but those that think it is fair game during all seasons. I don't think these issues are even considered or addressed.

I believe that not enough archers hunt late season, much less take their second buck, to make much difference. Also, by not allowing a second buck there will be very few late season archers. What few bucks that are taken do not hurt the overall population, but give more food to the does. I know I hunt bucks late season but otherwise I'm a meat hunter. I was for the pt. restriction but I've seen fewer bucks since then, legal and non-legal! I believe from what I've heard that hunters shoot deer and when they find the deer not to be legal, they leave it lay. The pt. restriction was to make larger and older deer but on our farm we have a large percentage of older cull bucks, no eye guards few large pts., and no legal way to take them from the gene pool. Disease not hunting

harvest has dropped deer numbers here. Stop the pt. restriction and take pressure off the does and increase herd numbers. Then deer can handle increased harvest. Crossbows will increase archery numbers by hunters thinking it will be easy to take deer and by gun hunters who want more hunting time. I think very few will hunt the colder, harder late season especially when they can hunt with a gun in the antlerless and alternate seasons. If you are trying to increase the number of archery hunters why limit the harvest and time they will spend afield? Thanks, S.

I would be ok with all of the new regulation changes with the exception of only allowing 1 legal antlered buck during archery season. I doubt that very many people harvest 2, and if you continue to allow people to purchase extra antlerless tags it should be limited to 1 per person no matter if it used during archery or firearm season.

I like the idea of being able to use a crossbow during the archery season without a permit. I'm not in favor of shortening the firearms portion Fromm 11 to 3.

Do it, I'm in.

I think if crossbows are allowed to use only through gun season.

Great suggestions you have made all will be a net positive. I would suggest moving the Firearm season later or split it into two parts. While this may be unpopular for some hunters it will generate a greater population and more opportunities for bucks to age into trophies. My suggestion is to start firearms season the Sat on or after November 15th. Much like the Turkey season always opens the third Monday, this offers a built in push back in most years without always messing up Thanksgiving or making people feel like it's been pushed. Much of the breeding and chasing occurs prior to this timeframe allowing more good bucks to breed and not be taken in the process sometimes before they mature. Continue the antler point restriction and keep doe seasons and youth as you have proposed for 2016.

Not a fan of crossbows used during the entire archery season and I would like to see rifle season moved out of the rut.

I can't see where shortening the November portion of deer season by two days would affect a lot of hunters' success. By this time in the season, many of the hunters have already filled their tag(s) or have quit for the season altogether. This would however, increase the deer herd by a minimal margin, saving the deer that would otherwise be taken. I believe the late youth season proposal would benefit all children hunters. The weather would/should be more suitable for children, not to mention they are on Thanksgiving break and many adults do not have to work during this time. Families could make new traditions as most families "get together" during this time. Overall I feel this is the most positive in the proposed changes. To bring the deer population back to a desired level the antlerless portion should be taken away completely (for a few years), re-evaluated and action taken accordingly. The three day season would be a step in the right direction, however most public opinions are based on success rates and this takes away from that. I, like a majority of other Missouri hunters do not have a parcel of property to hunt during the Urban portion. I feel most successful hunters live or own property in the urban areas Looking at the statistics there are not a lot of deer killed during this portion compared to other portions. This, coupled with the other proposed changes, would increase deer population. I

support the decline in days during this portion. Crossbow allowance is the change I take the most serious. I have several opinions concerning this issue. I believe allowing them, only with the other proposed changes are adapted, would be a positive change. Leave two antlered deer per archery season as is. Not many people (that I know) kill one buck with archery equipment. If you have the opportunity to do so, great! I would however place an antler point restriction on one or both deer statewide. I am all about making things simple. These are my opinions and thoughts. I hope they are helpful. I always look forward to deer hunting and my main goals would be have a higher deer density in my area (Iron County) that is healthy and free from disease.

I agree with limiting the number of bucks during archery season and also agree that the use of the crossbow by everyone statewide would be beneficial in helping to introduce new people into the archery season.

I would be okay with all of the regulations that are under consideration to change. Especially the use of crossbows during archery season. I believe it would get more young people into archery hunting.

Do limit the days on antlerless.

I wouldn't mind limiting the November Season from 11 to 9 for a few years if it helps increase the population. I would also agree to reducing the antlerless portion by 3 or 4 days, but not to 3 days. How about 7 days. Keep up the great work and watching out for our future of hunting and fishing. Thanks, D.S.

For starters, I really appreciate, as a non-resident, the opportunity to hunt in Missouri. I was a resident briefly in the '90s, but the majority of my hunting is as a non-resident. I do think your non-resident fees are adequate and affordable if you really want to hunt. Iowa is ridiculous and affords no chance to for us to hunt as a family like Missouri does. I'd prefer to see the archery season remain at two bucks. Anything to simplify conservation area regulations is a good step. Thanks again for the opportunity to affordably hunt as a non-resident.

I think your proposal on archery season with cross bow is perfect, there's individuals out there who health wise need to use it. and one buck during the season is ethical. We have seen a drop in population in deer around the Lincoln county area and agree on it completely. I also have an opinion on rifle season. I think we could keep the season as it is day wise but to limit the number of deer being taken and to get more ethical shots, and work harder as a sportsman go to a shotgun slug?

The current 4 point rule does nothing but restrict hunters in certain areas and accomplishes nothing for breeding bigger buck. I have hunted the same area for 42 years now and the bucks are still the same. Most bucks are 6 points or smaller, but they are good sized mature buck. I passed up two 6 pointers that I would have trouble getting into the truck by myself. I don't have any problems with the proposed changes. Respectfully, D.R.M.

I have already commented, but I saw one more proposed change, youth season. I always applauded MO for the timing of youth season. It's at a time where it isn't too cold yet as well as it is perfect timing where they have an opportunity to see a lot of deer and possibly a good buck. If

you move it to the weekend after Thanksgiving, the rut has wound down and it's cold. We need to recruit Hunters not freeze them out and have them not see deer. If it's not broke don't fix it. The timing is perfect for young hunters.

I agree with the recommendations and would hope more restrictions on captive herds be employed.

Everything is okay except crossbows should not be allowed.

I would like to see crossbows included as a legal means during the entire archery season. The slight reduction in gun season would not typically affect my hunting season but I do not understand why the second youth season is being moved up before Christmas. I have utilized the late season several times to try out Christmas gifts that I otherwise would have had to wait almost a year to do. I would like it to remain the same time it was the last couple years. I also do not understand why there is a reduction in the number of bucks we could take during the archery season. Assuming we are allowed to use crossbows next year, I would like to have the opportunity to shoot two deer of either sex. As challenging as bow hunting is, is taking two bucks making that much of a difference?

I agree with the decline in deer numbers. I haven't seen as many deer as I have in previous years so I believe it's the right thing to do to shorten the number of days during firearms season. And definitely with the doe portion of the season because if we're able to kill more does during that time then that will be less does fawning in the spring so I believe that's the right thing to do but I also believe that there should be a limit on the number of antlerless deer tags one can get because that will help a lot and help get the population back to where it has been. I also agree with only killing one antlered deer during bow season because that is going to make hunters past younger immature bucks to get the bigger more mature bucks due to only having one tag for the whole now season which is a fairly long season in MO. This will help our deer herd tremendously and also our future generations and having them experience what we have experienced in our time and keep it going so they can enjoy it like we have and will continue to enjoy.

I think everyone of the proposed changes would be great and fully support them.

As someone who uses a crossbow, due to a disability. I support opening archery season to crossbows. I have a 13 yr old daughter, she would love the opportunity to hunt with me. She is avid golfer who doesn't have extra time to learn how to shoot a vertical bow. This will allow her to hunt the early season when the temps are better for a child to sit and enjoy the hunt. I went to a conservation federation convention a couple of years back. We passed this issue in committee, but somehow a gentleman had it overturned the next day. I also feel that using the CSF to help set regulations is not listening to the whole state. That same gentleman swore that day he would never allow crossbows during archery season and as he being with CSF for so long has the pull to get things done like this. I hope I haven't lost the chance to teach my child about the outdoors. Kids now days have a lot of things coming at them. If you need to contact me, please do.
Sincerely, L.B.

The changes should be implemented this 2015 season. The deer population in my area is less than I have seen in years.

I personally do not think that the regulations need to be changed. For the firearm portion, although statistics show that the number of deer harvested on the last two days of the November portion of the last few years has not been very substantial, these days may be the only time that some people are able to hunt because of how their work schedule is. Also, by changing the date of the late youth season, it will not allow the deer enough time to settle down after the November portion. I am all for giving the youth an extra day to hunt, but the season needs to be at a time that the deer have had a little bit longer of a break from being hunted as hard. The last thing that I would like to comment on is the allowing of crossbows in the archery season. By allowing crossbows to be used, it will make the season easier, which is not what many people who bow hunt want. They are hunting for the challenge. It would also make things more dangerous, because shooting a crossbow is almost like shooting a firearm, being that it can be shot longer distances than a regular bow. Overall, I think that the regulations need to remain the same.

I agree with the proposals, in my opinion too many deer have been taken in Sullivan county where I hunt in the past two years. One land owner and his family of 4 took probably 15 deer in a 75 acre area starting in bow season and going through rifle season. I also feel nonresident land owner tags are too high. I have intentions of moving out of state for work and want to come back to hunt still. I'm picky on my kill and at times leave my tags unfilled. I do not like the prospect of wasting \$225.

Change is good like the crossbow being added to bow season, good tool around town.

I think MDC is right on track. I support it. I always questioned the rack limit on bucks, wondering if it was making a difference but I can say this 2014 Season I saw more big bucks than ever before. Much bigger racks. MDC is making a difference and I appreciate them wanting our feedback. The Bow Season also could be shorten to keep less pressure on the deer. Great Job, keep up the great work! Thank You.

My brother moved to Missouri a couple years ago. We are both archery deer hunters. Please keep the rules and pricing on permits the same as 2014. Lower the cost if you can. Last year was my first opportunity to hunt in your state. I had game camera pictures and actually saw some nice deer. It was AWESOME! I like most archery hunters did not shoot a deer though. I would like to bring my college aged son with me next year. Please keep it affordable. It is nice having the opportunity to shoot more than 1 buck all though it will probably never happen. It makes the license fee seem more reasonable to do this.

The only proposed change I don't like is shortening rifle season. I'm disabled and I can only hunt on days when I'm feeling good enough. I usually only get to hunt a couple of days as it is. I'd hate to lose any potential days to hunt.

I think rifle season should be moved to the end of November or beginning of December. In my opinion, that is the biggest impact on the buck population.

Allow bow hunting during rifle season with same license and wear orange. Allow non resident landowners some benefit of licensing.

I like the rifle season being cut to 9 days and the urban season elimination. I think the antlerless season should be eliminated altogether. Don't like the one buck for archery (my favorite season). There is also no mention of muzzle-loader season. It also is too long.

I think the proposed plans are a great strategy. The only one I disagree with is the 1 buck during bow season. A lot of us try to manage our farms we hunt with food plots, mineral stations, make shift bedding, strategic stand placement and culling out the ones that don't have the good genetic bloodline to get a shot at the trophy you've been saw airing for. If you want to restrict it. Do it with does. That's the best way to succumb our lowering deer population. I personally ate 5 tags this year and let me tell ya , tag soup don't feel or taste good. People are killing WAY too many doe. I would also like to see the non resident tags go up slightly as long as promised to better the deer and turkey populations. I think \$300 will bring in a bunch more revenue for the MDC.

I agree with all changes except the crossbow regulation. I prefer not to allow crossbows for use during archery season. They should only be allowed during firearms seasons. If the goal for most of the other regulation changes is to allow the deer herd to grow, than crossbows should not be allowed during archery. Doing so will allow more opportunities to kill more deer by more people who normally do not archery hunt. A crossbow is a much more dangerous device than normal vertical bows. A cocked crossbow is about as dangerous as a firearm. And hence should be treated as such.

I definitely am for using crossbows during archery! I believe it will make the "kills" cleaner with less deer being taken and not just wounded to die later. I would gladly give up most of antlerless season and a day or 2 of rifle season to get it! I believe with more deadly kills with crossbows we'll see a population increase just from the greater chance to harvest on your first shot and not having to seek another deer!

FIREARMS: Agreed-reduce firearms Nov portion to 9 days. **DO NOT** expand the youth season but timing OK. Reduce the antlerless portion-if does increase the herd, why hunt them more, especially if the herd is compromised. Urban zones should stay- to many auto accidents & not enough predation/hunting. **ARCHERY:** No crossbows allowed unless medical reasons prove such. Second, the archery season time has been encroached by extended gun seasons, antlerless seasons, and youth seasons over the years. Now you want to eliminate the harvest of antlered deer to one? Bucks don't control population (according to MDC reports) does do, so why take this away? Leave the season as is. I also think the archery season should not be "shut down" during the firearms portion. The hunter needs to abide to the firearms rules under his archery tag if he chooses to hunt during this time. If the archer chooses to buy a firearms tag and bow hunt, that is his choice for additional harvest.

I would encourage hunters to take more does, as the ratio around us seems pretty unbalanced due to every hunter wanting a trophy buck. I don't believe any season needs to be lengthened, although the season for out of staters could be maybe a bit to allow more opportunity to take something back. I'm definitely opposed to raising the fee for out of staters.

MDC, first and foremost I appreciate all the conservation efforts performed by the department for private landowners and the general public. My comments below reflect my opinion of

proposed changes to Missouri Deer Management. 1. Maintain the current timing of the November portion and reduce the length to 9-days. ANSWER: I absolutely disagree. Keep in mind that most Missourians are "working class" citizens and just finding time to hunt can be challenging. I believe we can continue with season lengths as they are and provide the most opportunity for Missourians to hunt. If it is a matter of harvesting too many deer, we can adjust the season bag limits accordingly. Our goal should be to provide the most hunting opportunities possible while managing the deer herd. Shortening the season, may reverse the current Missouri Trend of recruiting more hunters than we are losing. A fact that other states cannot claim.

2. Expand the late youth portion to 3-days beginning the first Friday after Thanksgiving. ANSWER: I wholeheartedly agree. Youth season and the opportunities provided are directly related to hunter recruitment. I've NEVER agreed with the brutal conditions for the January Youth Hunt. 3. Reduce the length of the antlerless portion to 3-days and begin on the first Friday in December. ANSWER: I absolutely disagree. Keep in mind that most Missourians are "working class" citizens and just finding time to hunt can be challenging. I believe we can continue with season lengths as they are and provide the most opportunity for Missourians to hunt. If it is a matter of harvesting too many deer, we can adjust the deer tags accordingly. Our goal should be to provide the most hunting opportunities possible while managing the deer herd. Shortening the season, may reverse the current Missouri trend of recruiting more hunters than we are losing. A fact that other states cannot claim. 4. Eliminate the urban zones portion. Answer: I am neutral on this as it does not affect me. However, I DO NOT agree with decreasing the amount of Deer Hunting Opportunities. I suspect that we have recruited more than 1 hunter with the Urban Zones Hunt. Although, I'm not sure, I believe these hunts provide revenue for the MDC / Urban areas as we and help control burgeoning deer populations in some urban areas.

5. Allow crossbows as a legal method during the archery deer and turkey season. ANSWER: I absolutely agree. Some states, I believe Ohio is one, have argued that allowing crossbows during the Archery Season will have a negative impact on the buck population. These arguments have not been scientifically proven. As our archery hunters age and get burdened down with work, family, and other commitments they have less time to hunt. A crossbow is easier to master, yet still provides the challenge of "you must get close". We must continue to provide hunting opportunities for ALL Missouri hunters and legalizing Crossbows is a step in the right direction. As an avid bow hunter approaching 50 years old, the day may come that I will be limited to a crossbow. 5. Reduce the limit of antlered deer during the archery season to 1. ANSWER: I disagree. Some hunters are strictly archery hunters and reducing the buck harvest to 1 buck, may reduce their interest to continue hunting after harvesting 1 buck. I believe most archery hunters are very ethical and pass up smaller bucks anyway. Changing this ruling may convince archery hunters to go to another state that provides more opportunities. I suspect the number of archery hunters that actually take 2 archery bucks is very low.

I believe antler point restriction is best for allowing bucks to mature along with moving the firearms season out of the rut this is when bucks are most vulnerable. Here in Ozark county I

believe the doe population is high and would encourage a greater opportunity to harvest doe. What is good for one area may not be best for another.

Allow crossbows for the archery season. Eliminate all together the antlerless portion. Allow only one antlered deer. Eliminate the youth season, let them hunt with grownups. This season gives unfair advantages to adults hunters who have children. Eliminate urban portion. Move the firearms season back one week toward December, and reduce it by two days to nine total.

I like all your ideas except for crossbows in archery. They shoot like a gun so let them hunt in gun season with a crossbow.

I feel crossbows should not be a part archery season.

First and foremost, thank you all for all the hard work you do for the deer herd of Missouri. 1. Firearms changes, I think the season should be pushed back one week to take pressure off of the bucks while they enter peak rut and I agree to all other changes. 2. Archery Season, If we are to do what is best for a declining deer herd we must NOT allow crossbows! This is the single change that I feel most passionate about and feel strongly against! I'm a bow hunter I do not gun hunt. I spend countless hours in the woods each season. I have 100 acres that we live on and hunt. I have been here for 5 years. During bow season there is low pressure on the herd which is great. Bow hunters are a different breed of hunter. From what I have gathered in all my years of hunting is that once rifle season opens ethics go down the toilet. I am worried tremendously that that will occur with the legalization of crossbows during archery. Pope and Young does not allow crossbow entries into archery record bucks and as the foremost record keeping organization for bowhunters across America I trust them. I do not feel that a crossbow is archery it has a stock and a scope and a trigger it is more similar to guns then it is a bow. If we are to do what is BEST for the herd, we all NOT allow crossbows. I have experience, during last season I had to use a crossbow because of a broken wrist and after using a bow for the last 5 years and a crossbow last year I will tell you they are completely different from personal experience that is what I have gathered. I feel that this is a hot button topic with Missouri's bowhunters 99% of us do not want the crossbows. I apologize for going on and on but as I said earlier I feel passionately about this issue and again please, for the sake of our deer herd and the future of it, keep archery the same. I tagged both my bucks with archery tackle one before gun season 1 after and that's only if they are mature animals. God bless & thank you. M.B.

I would like the season length and timing left unchanged. Weather and vacation opportunities limit many from participating in this sport. I would recommend limiting the harvest regardless of what weapon you use to harvest a deer to 1 any-deer permit and 1 antlerless permit during the entirety of deer season for any one hunter including a land owner. Then monitor and increase permits as populations rebound.

As I get older I find myself looking for easier ways to continue hunting. I am in favor of the proposed archery change allowing crossbows. This change will allow me to continue archery seasons.

With the current deer bag limits I have no issue with the regular season being cut back to 9 days or the antlerless season being cut back as this will only promote hunters to fill their tags. I do,

however, have an issue with allowing crossbows in the archery season. You state you want to help introduce younger hunters to the sport and prolong older hunters participation. If a younger hunter is not able to draw a bow then they will have issues cocking a crossbow and as far as the older hunters are concerned they can get a special permit with their doctors help. Crossbows are only going to help promote taking unethical shots since you are basically shooting a gun. I have not spoken with any bow hunter that is in favor of this. I do not see anything good coming out of allowing crossbows in any other season than the alternative weapons season or special managed hunts. I have mixed feelings on the buck limit change as with the 4 point restriction is already allowing the bucks to mature and most bow hunters are out to harvest mature bucks. I would think that with the 4 point restriction and then the limit of bucks to harvest would in time cause the buck to doe ratio to be out of whack. With the liberal doe harvest that has been in place I am already seeing this issue on the properties that I hunt on in Hickory County.

I would like to see the limit of one buck during archery season since it is one during firearms season.

I was surprising pleased with the amount of deer I saw this past season in Clark County, Mo. The deer herd was hit hard in our area the past five years and still has needs a few years of management to regain its numbers. I am pleased to hear your organization is willing to listen to our suggestions regarding the deer hunting seasons. I would like to see a few things amended in an effort to provide the best hunting experience for Missouri hunters. I would like to see the youth season regulations changed. The times and ages need to be looked at. I hear of and have seen teenagers utilize the youth season without the parent by their side. This season is for parents to teach the youth how to hunt, not for youth to get an early crack at the deer while they are relatively unspooked. I think the cut-off should be the age of thirteen years old. If your child is thirteen, he/she would no longer qualify as a youth but as an adult and hunt during the regular hunting season. I would also like to see the youth season moved to early October or early December and be only one weekend. Another suggestion I would give would be to have does taken by firearms during a separate doe season in early-mid October pre-rut. That way does killed would not have been bred. Does taken in November have the potential to have been bred, therefore if one is killed, two to three deer are taken from the herd. My last suggestion would be to move the firearm portion of the deer season to early-mid December between the first and second rut. Less bucks would be harvested, but this would give our state a chance to catch up with neighboring states for big bucks, thus boosting our local economies when hunters come from out of state to kill mature bucks. Our habitat is just as good if not better than Kansas, Iowa, and Illinois, but Missouri does not compare to the number of mature bucks b/c we hunt with rifles during the rut. The only way to change this is to change when we hunt bucks. This will make hunters upset at first, but over time they will come to realize it is better to hunt and have the potential to kill large bucks b/c of your efforts.

Proposed changes I do not agree with: 1. allowing crossbows to all. Bow hunting is an art in itself. Traditionally crossbows are for bow hunters who have doctors proof of injury or inability for normal bows. Don't ruin our sport. 2. Youth seasons should be one not two and should abide

by the same regulations as normal hunting regs. This feel good mentality of allowing the children to kill anything that moves is part of the herd destruction. I'm not convinced the "kids" are actually doing all the hunting! Points I agree with: 1. Limit the number of bucks across the board. One buck one doe, period, to encompass all seasons. We are destroying the very things we are said to be conserving. 2. Urban hunts should be limited to bow only and by lottery in areas where the deer populations need to be controlled. no crossbows in urban areas. 3. Get rid of alternative methods season. It should be black powder & done. No one needs to shoot a deer with a pistol. That's ignorant and it makes Missouri look that way. As for the other alt. methods, right, because so many do it! Not buying it, stop selling it. 4. Put crossbows open to all in gun season. 5. Atlatl should be considered in bow season. 6. Sept. is too early for bow hunting. Make it Oct 15th to January 30th. In closing, I feel we have too many seasons. Basically someone is woods hunting in one form or another from November to January in large numbers. The deer are so pressured they become nocturnal. Not good for hunting or the health of the deer. I did not include bow hunters in this because bow hunters are less in numbers. Missouri has always been talked about among other states as a leader in conservation. We have chased the all mighty dollar and developed too many feel good programs that are not in the best interest of nature. We need to go back to our roots. Thank You.

First, a cross "bow" is NOT a bow in the intention of what our Archery Season was designed around. Actual medical exceptions withstood. Going to five days for the antlerless season would take some pressure off the deer and possibly help in less concentration of hunters in the woods at the same time.

Rifle season should start a week later. 4 point restriction should be state wide. One antlerless tag should be available in every county.

Timing and 11 days to nine days, OK. Youth Late Firearms weekend deer will be hard to find right after gun season. Afraid kids wouldn't have much of a chance. Antlerless firearms, three days sounds ok and 1st Friday in Dec. ok if you don't have late youth the weekend before. There again, deer will be totally nocturnal. Don't hunt any, but still think we need urban zones portion. NO CROSSBOWS FOR ARCHERY SEASON EXCEPT FOR HANDICAP. Haven't ever done it but always liked the option of killing another buck after firearms season.

I am in favor of a shorter deer season for the reasons outlined by MDC and also because I am a quail hunter and the extremely long deer seasons, not just the firearm season cuts in to my time in the field.

1a) I do not support the movement of Nov Rifle season to later in the season. Rifle season in Missouri is commonly thought of as a "holiday", which would overlap with Thanksgiving (a holiday that I spend with family). 1b) Shortening the season to 9 days would be acceptable. I don't think this will have a significant impact on the number of deer taken. 2) I am in favor of expanding the late youth season and moving to over Thanksgiving weekend. 3) Reduce the antlerless portion and begin the first Friday of Dec. MDC does an outstanding job of regulating the deer herd and addressing population issues. This decision should be based on your deer biologists recommendations. 4) I have no opinion of eliminating the urban zones. 5) I do not

support the use of crossbows during archery season. They are a distinctly different hunting method than the use of recurve/compound bows. Please note, for youth, seniors, and medical necessity, I approve of crossbow use. Other options include opening the post rifle season archery season up to crossbows. 6) I support the reduction of the archery limit to one buck. 2 bucks (one archery, one rifle, plus a managed hunt if luck enough to draw) per season is sufficient. BONUS: I strongly oppose the Antlered Point Restriction. The main reason is the effect it has on "meat hunters". Many of which would be happy with any deer that walks in front of them. In addition, this hampers a land owner from managing their deer herd the way they want, (i.e. they would be prevented from taking a deer with a poor rack until such time as it became "legal"). Furthermore, while I support the concept of not shooting small bucks, I believe this is something that needs to be taught and encouraged, not made illegal. On a personal note, I have not shot a legal buck since this rule was implemented, though I have "passed" on numerous "legal" little bucks. Previously, I averaged over 1 buck (8-9 points, 110-130 inches) per season (rifle/archery combined) before this rule was implemented. I know this rule is not the reason for lack of recent shooter bucks in my area, however it certainly is an indicator that it is not having a positive effect in my hunting locations.

The new proposed regulations are, in my opinion, not helping the deer population bounce back that so many hunters are complaining about. The idea to just shorten the firearms season does nothing. Very few hunters hunt the final Monday and Tuesday of the season anyways. Move the opening day back one week while shortening to get it out of the peak of the rut. Make the antler restriction statewide and get rid of telecheck and go back to check stations to keep hunters honest. Make only one 3 day weekend for youth hunters after firearms season preferably the second to last week in December. Youth will be on winter break and will hit the seconded rut when yearling does go into heat. Make the antlerless season 3 days on the last Friday of December. Crossbows during archery season should be restricted to the disabled, youth 10 and under, and elderly 70 and up. 1 buck for archery and one for firearms is a reasonable decision. And 2 antlerless for archery and 1 for firearm is a reasonable regulation also. There is no reason to take away urban zones but some should be downsized like the one that encompasses Columbia area. I would like to see the out of state tags moved from an over the counter purchase to a lottery like our neighboring states and a price increase. Though out of state hunters bring in a lot of money there are beginning to be too many. Finally I would like to see the "alternative methods" season done away with. Instead introduce a 9 day muzzleloader only season that takes place the second week of October.

As a hunter who hunts all seasons (bow and all gun) I have seen the changes in deer population and feel it needs to be looked into. I feel shortening the number of days of gun season will not help the herd and will just give less time for hunters to bag quality deer. The real problem comes in to play with the antlerless portion of gun season and the number of tags given for antlerless. People should not be given more than 2 antlerless tags per year. As someone who drives almost all of KC urban areas everyday taking away this season will only cause more crashes and hurt more than it will help. My biggest issue comes from the reduction of buck tags for bow season.

Hunting with a bow is hard to start with and the joy of taking a buck is a great feeling but the chance to take two drives me into the woods even more. It makes me a better manager of the land because I work to keep the deer herd healthy balanced out. The price is very good as well it is well worth my money every year. PLEASE DON'T TAKE OUR TAGS.

I will never understand why the gun portion of the deer season is so short. To me it exaggerates the risk of accidents by concentrating more people into the woods at one time and especially limits landowner ability to manage their herds. I encourage your consideration for crossbow use.

I agree heartily with all the proposed changes to the 2016/2017 deer season EXCEPT for the inclusion of crossbows during the regular bow season. A crossbow isn't a bow; it's a rifle with a string. If you wish to allow non-handicapped people to hunt with one, it would be more reasonable to continue to make crossbows legal during the muzzleloader season only.

I disagree with the proposed changes to the deer hunting regulations. Limiting the season to 9 days puts undue pressure on hunters and their families. The current 11 day season is already to short when compared to states like Alabama and Georgia. In those proposed 9 days, hunters have to hunt whether the weather is blizzard like or mild, whether they can get off from work or not, whether it is crowed (and it will be crowded and dangerous) in the national forest. It's not just about the act of shooting a deer as it is about the act of being on the hunt, at the deer camp, parents bonding with their children, relatives and friends seeing each other that one time a year. There are other ways to achieve the desired result in deer management without cutting the number of days of the season. For starters, limit additional doe tags, cut the number of management hunts, cut the number of regular tags to one any deer and one doe instead of 2 doe tags, limit the number of archery tags, and others. You are proposing an 18% cut to the available deer firearm hunting time. Are you also proposing an 18% cut to the MDC budget? I also suspect an anti-hunting agenda to this recommendation. This year cut 2 days and then in two years cut two more? I will also be contacting my state representatives about this issue. Firearms deer season is when I see my family and friends and you are trying to shorten it.

DO NOT ALLOW CROSSBOWS DURING ARCHERY SEASON, reduce the length of antlerless season, allow land owners 2antlered deer as it has been , eliminate early youth gun season.

I own 40 acres in Putnam county that borders my parents 200 acre farm. We look forward to the deer season every year! We have a loose QDM Cooperative with the neighbors and try to shoot older age class bucks and a few does every year. We have noticed a lower volume of deer. I always like to keep records and several years ago I was seeing over 60 deer a day. Now on a good day I count a dozen. Usually 3-4 bucks and 5-8 does. In all honesty we had too many deer previously and now could probably support a few more. I support all your suggested recommendations. I am very excited to see the recommendation of allowing crossbows as a legal method during the archery season. You all are doing a great job. I love deer hunting in Missouri and I think these recommendations will only help.

Maintain the current timing of the November portion and reduce the length to 9-days. I do not concur with this proposed change for the following reasons: - Negative impact on hunters who

enjoy extended excursions in the field and often use the available time to scout and adjust hunting strategies to find new areas - It will create pressure on hunters to achieve their desired goals in less time, which can increase the risk of hunter-to-hunter interference/safety because many hunters will “press” their hunting strategy to gain success earlier. As most hunters know, pressing into the field early in the first few days of firearms deer season increases opportunity because the large number of hunters afield will increase the pressure on deer to move; shortening the season will only further increase the risk to hunter safety due to greater pressure to succeed earlier. - Issue only a limited number of antlerless permits state-wide: For example, only one antlered and one antlerless tag per hunter per year for firearm season – state-wide. Expand the late youth portion to 3-days beginning the first Friday after Thanksgiving. This is a good, logical adjustment because currently few people are able to take advantage of the current scheduled late youth season dates. Reduce the length of the antlerless portion to 3-days and begin on the first Friday in December. I propose the 3-day antlerless season be eliminated altogether. The regular firearms season allows for both antlered and antlerless deer already; eliminating the antlerless deer season will further simplify the seasons and also balance against the proposed need to shorten the regular firearms season. Eliminate the urban zones portion. Urban zones continue to grow and cause more stringent hunting restrictions – this is counterintuitive because it only results in exceedingly greater deer populations encroaching on urban zones which increases the risk of disease (CWD) and potential for die-offs due to over-browsing. In the same vein, deer from the greater populated urban areas will expand out to fill the voids created by bordering areas that are more heavily hunted. You should conduct a little more detailed analysis on how to better enable hunting in urban zones, where there is good deer habitat, rather than eliminating it which will only serve to increase deer-human contact and risk of disease and habitat damage.

Archery Season Changes • Allow crossbows as a legal method during the archery deer and turkey season. Agreed. Finally a good idea. • Reduce the limit of antlered deer during the archery season to 1. Conservation Area Regulations. Agreed. This will allow for more opportunities for hunters who only participate during firearm season. Simplify conservation area regulations by limiting methods and use of firearms and archery antlerless permits. This doesn’t make sense; Conservation area managers may develop restrictions solely based on their personal feelings toward the sport of hunting. It enables them to stack the deck against hunters in general based solely on opinion. Common allowances with appropriate restrictions based on thorough analysis while avoiding restrictions that would “put-off” hunters who would otherwise desire to hunt conservation areas will be more productive towards deer management.

The length of archery deer season is way too d--n long. Cut it back. I guess it does allow more time to cripple and lose deer that we will never see again.

My comments are based on observation of deer and people: Do not allow crossbows during bow season. Allow them during alternative seasons. As they are an alternative weapon. Do not allow poaching by limiting the age of youth hunters to 12 years old. A younger child is unsafe and has limited concept of the gravity of killing an animal for food and sport. It makes killers instead of hunters. Young children simply provide their fathers with an additional buck tag and teaches

them that poaching in this manner is OK. Do away with the youth season and have them hunt with their fathers/responsible person during regular season. Deer numbers are down in Barry county and according to friends in other counties also. Limit the antlerless season to regular season. Alternative season deserves a better time slot than Dec 20 as deer are extremely hard to find after being hunted for several weeks and go totally nocturnal according to several game cameras.

I support the firearms season changes if it is needed to maintain the deer population. I like allowing crossbows during archery season. As a Missouri land owner, but a non-resident, I think the non-resident deer permits are way too expensive. You should create a category for non-resident land owner, and it should be 50% of the non-resident deer permit cost. I am a Missouri taxpayer.

1. Reducing the length of main portion is ok. 2. Expanding late youth portion, ok. 3. Reducing the length of antlerless and start in Dec, ok. 4. I would keep the urban portion to try to keep populations in check. 5. I would not make any changes to the bow hunting. Bow hunting is something your work at and practice for, it takes time, preparation and heart. Opening up to a cross bow that anyone can do is not fair. You might as well make gun season run from Sept 15-Jan 15. If someone is skilled enough to take 2 bucks under the antler restrictions with a bow more power to them. Don't take that away! Make them take a doe before each buck tag is before you take that away.

I support maintaining the timing of the current season however I do not support shortening the season. I think there should be an antlerless season in the southern counties of Missouri due to the excessive number of does being observed on a daily basis. I support the use of crossbow during archery season but do not agree with reducing the number of antlered deer to 1. I travel an hour each day to work and back, during these travels before or after seasons, I may see 10-12 herds of deer in the fields along the roadways. We have counted as many as 75 deer in one trip home from work. My opinion is that if we do not increase the number of deer taken in Southern Missouri on an annual basis there will be so many that they become so over populated that we then have a disease infested herd. Having said that I do not wish to see the herd wiped out like in previous times.

Sounds to me like the antlerless portion is not what needs reduced. I actually live on the land I hunt in Pike county. I witness all these people who live in the city buying land just for hunting. They spend a fortune putting in plots and spreading feed to help them harvest the larger bucks. We harvested 4 deer this year, 3 doe and 1 button buck. We hunt for the meat not for the trophy. Maybe you should limit those trophy hunters to 1 buck every other year. I bet you will see those that can't get a buck that year won't hunt at all. It shouldn't be about hunting during rut because it is easier for the hunters. Or limit those who are resident but do not reside on the land or even the same county as they hunt. Gives us real resident land owners more time and less restrictions than those who don't reside in the same county as their land.

Agree with what you guys and gals are doing to preserve our deer herd. Keep up the good work. I do not like the one buck limit for the archery season. Most hunters during the first part of the

season let the small ones go, and during the second part of the season, they don't get a chance at a shooter. So they are already doing their part to let the big ones grow. Bad change. I like the crossbow proposal, get the kids in and keep the old folks hunting. Great on shortening the firearms season. A suggestion, you need to change the start of the firearms season to a later date. It needs to start after the rut. Two you need to end the archery season right after the firearms season, Dec.1 would be the date. Most archery hunters are done and what deer are left need to be left alone.

I'm ok with the proposed changes as I am predominantly a bow hunter except limiting bow hunters to one antlered deer. It's already hard to kill a mature buck with a bow. I don't want to be limited to only taking does in the late season if I get an opportunity at a trophy deer.

I'm in full support of recognizing crossbows as archery equipment and allowing there use by any or all archers who choose to use one in archery season. There are not that many tagging out on bucks so I have to disagree with taking away that option for the lucky hunter who has the opportunity.

Deer hunting in Missouri could be the best in the country, if not for our conservation dept. failing miserably with these proposed changes. You don't even need us to tell you what's wrong really just look at the states like Illinois, Kansas, and Iowa, for example, that have far superior whitetail hunting than we do. Move rifle season back, go to a one buck state, do not let the youth hunt the first weekend in November, and no crossbows should not be legal archery tackle unless one is disabled. If you want to shoot 2 year old deer your entire life than Missouri is the place to go, and that's exactly what you're telling your avid hunters with these proposed changes.

I agree with all of the listed changes besides to expand the late portion of the youth season. I believe that 4 days are plenty for the kids to get out and hunt especially since they are still allowed to hunt with a licensed parent or guardian during the November, antlerless, and alternative portions of deer season. I think shortening the seasons is a good idea for many reasons the main one being that as far as I can see the herds have decreased dramatically over the last few years and the extended seasons are causing more harm than good. I've talked to people that say how they see just as many seer as always but I believe that they are the lucky ones.

I'm all for the archery changes. I love to bow hunt but I also have bad shoulders, sometimes when I'm out hunting sometimes I can pull my bow back and sometimes I cant. I think some people will take advantage of the crossbows but most real hunters will stick to their regular bows instead of making the switch. I know some people that have tried crossbows and said they are too easy and stick to their old compound bow.

I have thought our season length has been too long. I agree with these changes being considered. I am and have been a small game hunter as well as a deer hunter for over 40 yrs. with deer seasons open as long as they are no one wants me hunting quail, rabbit, or squirrel. I might spook their deer off of their property forever. How crazy is that. I also believe that this causes people to wait too long to kill a deer and then they don't kill any because deer go nocturnal and no one wins. Thank you for shorting the season up. Can go back to 3 days bucks and 6 days antlerless only wouldn't bother me.

Definitely DON'T allow use of crossbows during archery season, it's counterintuitive to the rest of the proposals designed to reduce the number of deer harvested. DON'T eliminate urban hunting zones. There are still too many deer in the suburbs.

I have purchased a non-res. archery lic. in Missouri for 40 consecutive yrs. I truly believe the MDC has managed the herd well and accomplished it's goals when an increase was needed and when a reduction is needed. I appreciate the fact that they do listen to all parties with an interest in the deer population but manage for the best of the herd. Opinions: Unless a person is honestly handicapped there is no good reason to allow the use of a crossgun in archery seasons. There is already enough equipment & ways to kill a deer available. Land access is becoming an issue which in turn effects harvest number +/- in localized areas. Some hunters or groups can control vast amounts of land. Some can control what & how many deer they shoot while others don't seem to be capable of controlling their trigger finger or the opposite where the trophy mentality overrides good judgment and they don't shoot anything. It makes the balancing act very difficult for the MDC. Right now I believe the numbers are down and we need to let them rebound a bit after 2 yrs. of disease and several years of hard hunting. Leave the seasons & equipment alone & put a cap on the number (1) person can take regardless of the season/equipment they choose to use. I liked the days of the check stations as well.

CROSSBOWS SHOULD BE PERMITTED TO BE USED DURING ARCHERY SEASON.
This change is long overdue. I was forced to give up bow hunting when I injured my shoulder. That was nearly 30 years ago. I have heard all of the so-called 'regular' or 'primitive' bow hunters comments and it is pure bunk. If they wish to maintain a bow hunting as a primitive sport, compound bows should be banned. Force them to use long bows or recurve bows. They will quickly change their tune.

I already submitted a comment regarding my support to allow crossbows to be used during archery seasons but I had a couple of more comments. First, I believe that resident land owners should be able to deer hunt the weekend prior to the regular firearms season opening. Second, set up a program to encourage landowners to establish permanent food plots for deer, turkey and other game.

I agree with the above proposal. The only other thing I would like to see is to eliminate doe season too. Deer season is too long and interferes with other outdoor activities. Small game hunting and trapping. I bow hunt, gun hunt, muzzle load hunt, trap. I don't think eliminating the urban hunt is a good idea. Are you going to keep muzzleloader season the same? No mention here about that. I think it is too long also.

Allow crossbows all seasons. Allow 2 bucks to be harvested total for all seasons. Extend youth seasons to 9 days.

I personally wouldn't vote for the crossbow during archery but if they do I hope they limit it to 1 deer per. Crossbow because a crossbow is basically a rifle.

I support the 9 day season for sure, also the only one buck in the archery season sounds good, bow hunting change to allow cross bows, well I myself don't bow hunt, but if this is a legal

method I myself would consider buying a cross bow so maybe more people would do the same so not sure if that's what you want is more bow hunters, but I think there will be more if this is allowed.

The deer population is still far too high in my opinion. I have only 160 acres of land. I continue to lose several acres of soybeans every year to deer browsing. They have destroyed the trees I've planted to try to stabilize a steep slope in my pasture. My fences get damaged by deer such that every few weeks something has to be repaired. Our car was "hit" by a deer this fall causing over \$3,000 damage - fortunately we were not hurt. I think that you have made a mistake by shortening the firearms season and restricting the antlerless season more than in 2014. Both of these should be liberalized even more. One deer is enough for me personally but you must do something to reduce the negative economic impact of what is an excessively high deer population. People (tax payers) also have to be taken into consideration too. Thanks.

I have not been hunting nearly as long as my grandfather or great-grandfather but I am very excited about the possibility of using a crossbow throughout the entire archery season. To me this is just a logical correction that should always have been allowed. There are some differences in hunting with a vertical bow and a crossbow but I can shoot much more accurately with a crossbow than I have been able to with a vertical bow, which to me means that there is less chance of an unrecoverable, poorly shot wounded animal. Horns are nice but my family generally hunts for food, and those horns don't taste very good. As far as the other questions, I don't see a problem cutting one day out of the end of the gun season. I quite like the youth hunt after Christmas which gives me a chance to use my gifts. I really don't see any advantage of moving it up to thanksgiving and completing with all the Black Friday shopping. I would also like to see the game limits stay the same, 2 deer of either sex (one buck before gun season and one after). Archery season is challenging enough without stripping us of a buck.

I have been hunting with my step dad for the last 10 yrs, and we would like to try archery hunting with a crossbow. We tried it this last winter during alternative methods and we had a great time. I have never understood why a type of bow was prohibited from archery season. Especially when several neighboring states have had them fully included for a long time now. As to moving the second youth hunt up to Black Friday, I think that is a horrible idea and would limit who could even get out hunting as so many are focused on buying Christmas gifts. Leave it where it is and expand that one by a day or even two and we can get a pretty good hunt in before school starts back. I would like to leave the tag limits the same as they have been. Down in the bootheel we have not traditionally been able to buy additional tags, so the current tag limits are a blessing for us.

I think you need to maintain the November portion but reduce the days from 11 to 9 days or put the muzzleloader season in for the November portion. I think you should expand the youth hunt to 3 days. It would be okay to reduce the antlerless portion from 12 to 6 days not 3. Do not eliminate the urban portions and absolutely do not allow crossbows during archery season. And I think you should keep the two Antlered deer limit for archery season. I am mainly a meat hunter, our main source of meat is deer, I enjoyed the abundance of deer and the liberal amount of tags

that went along with it, there were so many you really didn't have to hunt very hard! I felt like the deer management was more for the non resident or out of state hunters, or those who were able spend big bucks to come and hunt which has resulted in a lot of private ground being leased out or bought by hunting clubs and has gotten to a point where it is getting hard for the average person to be able to hunt close to home either because of no where to hunt anymore or can't afford to drive to other places to hunt! I think for the most part the MDC has done a very good job, I just wish it wasn't getting so hard for the average person to enjoy the sport. I am afraid eventually only the wealthy or above average income will be able to enjoy it!

I am primarily a meat hunter, so I do not like the proposed change to the antlerless portion. The antlerless portion is where I usually harvest my deer that feeds my family for the year. The other proposed changes seem reasonable to me. Thank you for your time and listening to all of our varied opinions.

I like your guys' proposal but I do have a few issues with it. I do not believe cross bows should be allowed to use for the whole entire archery season. Those thing practically can shoot 100 yards. I feel like the rifle season should be limited to six days also I feel like that would really help out the deer population more than anything. I would like you guys to get back with me on my proposal.

I support the changes.

Changes would be great. I already have to use a crossbow due to medical reasons.

If new changes go into place I will be able to try bow hunting and spend more time with my family.

In my particular area the deer numbers seem to be about where they should be. I no longer have them running down my cattle fencing several times a week. I would agree with 9 day season, reducing the antlerless portion to 3 days and maintain the same timing. I however disagree with allowing crossbows during the archery season, unless you have a medical permit. In my opinion, archery season has been ruined with the long firearms seasons which pressures deer harder and they spook much easier. This makes it more difficult to harvest a deer during the latter part of the season. I have no opinion on the antlered deer regulations as I am a meat hunter, not an antler hunter. However, I do enjoy seeing the large bucks.

I do not like the idea of allowing anyone to use a crossbow during archery season.

I think you guys do a great job. I bow hunt on conservation land almost every year. I think the changes are great. I wish Michigan would follow in your footsteps. The new rule for deer is one that I would think would grow bigger bucks and better opportunity for gun hunters also. I liked the price off tags better when they were \$175.00.

I agree with most of the changes, would rather leave the rifle portion of deer season alone. Would really like to see cross bows legal for all. I believe the youth season should be shortened, I think to many people misuse this season as an opportunity to kill deer and use their kids tags.

I agree with the changes.

I am an employee of MDC. I frequently talk with the public some good some bad most people I talk with want less out of state hunters more big bucks. Many people, including myself, are willing to suffer for some time to fix our deer herd in our area. I have not shot a buck in two years due to the low number of deer. Many people I talk to say the same. Hunting is poor and needs a hand recovering. Less out of state hunters, cut gun season out of the rut and more deer. That's the majority of what people tell me.

Move the firearms season to December.

I like the archery season changes. I am a non-resident but I own land, work and pay taxes in Missouri. I feel I should be able to pay resident permit fees or be allowed farm tags. If not, would you consider a single any season permit for non-resident hunters?

We built our house in 2000. We used to see deer all the time. There has been a steady decline in numbers in our area over the last 15 years. We did not take one deer on our 30 acres this season, and we hunted firearms, archery and black powder. I think that this is as good a solution as any. I would like to continue to hunt, but do not want to spend 11 days in the woods and not see one deer.

I support all the proposed regulations changes for 2016, EXCEPT the following: Reducing the antlerless (buck) tags to 1 (one) per season. I vehemently oppose this change. Especially as a landowner (100 acres in Daviess County), I invest a lot of private resource in habitat and wildlife resource management. I DO NOT BELIEVE that reducing the buck harvest during archery season has any positive effect on overall deer management. And, will erode the current hunting interests for 'all season' deer hunting, which has domino affects for all the supporting industries as well. I also submit that ALLOWING the second buck to be harvested in the late season (after firearms) does NOT result in a significant harvest anyway! It simply ALLOWS the hunting OPPORTUNITY! I was named Conservationist of the Year by the NWTF in 1998. I know wildlife management. This is not a prudent change in archery and I oppose it strongly.

I like allowing the cross bow during archery season! I believe the youth deer season should be lengthened.

I especially endorse the proposed late youth hunting season change as I have a grandson that I take. The decrease in the numbers of deer to take and shortened seasons are changes that I am willing to see if they work out. My reservation is that these may discourage hunters.

I am not for shortening the regular firearms season to 9 days, if anything I would like to see it lengthened a couple of more days, through Thanksgiving. Shortening to 9 days would put more pressure in the field, and I certainly like to have those last two days to hunt after the last weekend to take a doe if I had no chance at a buck. By limiting the season to 9 days, I feel that fewer hunters will have less chance at getting to hunt.

Gentlemen: I wish to express my concern for the change in the archery requirements for the upcoming deer season. It is obvious that the intention of these changes is to increase the overall herd size. Reduction in days to hunt with firearms and antlerless hunts should have a significant impact. However, if you allow the addition of crossbows to the archery season, you will

significantly increase the total amount of deer taken through that method. Today's crossbows are effectively short range rifles. They take little skill and even less practice to become effective weapons. I suggest that the pressure from sellers of crossbows is having an effect on this decision.

I do not like the change to allow only one antlered deer for archery. I disagree with the purposed change. I want the current two antlered deer for archery to remain.

I support all the proposed regulations for the 2016-2017 deer season. Thank you for maintaining the current timing of firearms season. Allowing crossbows for archery hunting is helpful to someone in my age group. Moving the late youth season to an earlier date makes sense and I agree with limiting archery antlered deer to one.

Does not like proposed reduction in the season length of November and antlerless portions. Have too many deer on property. Like changes in youth season. Depredation problems that are working with the agent on. Likes public meetings/open houses but need to do more meetings in rural areas.

Eliminate the urban zones portion- I'm not sure why you would want to eliminate the urban zone, The deer population in St. Charles and St. Louis county is growing, and more of a problem. I would think that you would want to enhance urban hunt. I think the use of Crossbows is great idea, more people would have an opportunity to archery hunt. Shooting a long or compound bow well, is a time consuming process. The use of a crossbow allows for a more efficient/humane kill. I think our non-resident deer permit should be in line with neighboring states.

I still feel the numbers of deer in my county (Stoddard) is not where they need to be. Also the type of deer for the county is not where it need to be either. There are too many people in this particular area killing little bucks (4pts 6pts) and then the maturity of the deer never reach any potential for a good harvest and or to breed. It is time for a point restriction of a minimum of 4pts on one side in Stoddard county. Also, Crowley Ridge Wildlife Area is the center point of the county. This needs to be changed to BOW ONLY! Too many people gun hunting in one area and harvesting small deer (small bucks) not knowing their surroundings. Shot deer running on private land and lost or left to lay. I do agree with only one buck kill in a season to help get the numbers up, however, you are only spinning your wheels until you start managing your buck herd. The conservation area like Crowley Ridge. Do you want quality or numbers or do you good quality in numbers? Thanks for the vent.

Do not agree with changing the deer season to expand the youth portion to 3 days and reducing the normal season to 9 days. The youth can also hunt during regular hunting seasons so see no need to provide them with an extra day. My stand is to leave the season as it is.

I can see that the main focus of the proposed regulation changes is to both increase deer populations and increase the number of bucks that survive the 2016-2017 and ensuing hunting seasons. I think the proposals are mostly good considering that goal. However, I think the measures are somewhat severe. I have noticed fewer dead deer along Missouri's roads and interstates. That WOULD indicate that populations are, indeed, down. But I am not convinced that numbers are below what might be considered ideal. Therefore, I would very strongly object

to changing the antlerless period from 12 days to 3. The number of surviving does would cause deer numbers to explode. I think, if the antlerless period must be shortened, that shortening it to 10 days would be more appropriate. In the same vein, I believe that shortening the rifle season from 11 days to 9 days is not a good thing as some hunters come from out of state and are looking for a longer season which would be more likely to assure them of a successful season. I do, however, believe that the use of a crossbow is a good idea as it is, admittedly, difficult for our younger and senior hunters to use. Your questionnaire does not distinguish whether the \$225 fee would be for harvesting a buck or a doe. I don't think fees should be increased for the harvest of does. But based on the shortages of bucks that I see in Livingston County, I am inclined to think that raising the fee for the harvest of a buck would be a good thing. As a final comment, I think the MDC could do a lot in the area of educating the hunter about the benefits of hunting as a method of putting food on the table. I sometimes wonder if the average hunter realizes that a 2-year-old doe makes significantly better table fare than a 4-year-old buck does. I know they are after the big rack, but think some education in this area would go a long way. It is probably obvious that 1) I don't think doe populations are down by an alarming amount. 2) I think some small adjustments in hunting regulations are warranted. 3) Use of a crossbow would be a good thing. 4) Fees for the harvest of does should not be raised, but fees for bucks could be increased slightly. Lastly, thanks for the informative meetings that are planned for this spring in various cities. And thanks for the opportunity you've given me to comment.

I am completely against most of the changes proposed. My first issue is not being able to hunt public land due to parking lots full of out of state hunters. Missouri should implement a lottery system like our neighboring states as well as an increased tag price. Another issue that I am strongly against is allowing crossbows. I do believe that there should be an age where a hunter should be allowed to use a crossbow, whether that be 50 or 55. This would simplify the process for older hunters who want to enjoy bow hunting but are unable to physically hunt with a traditional bow. I believe allowing crossbows would jeopardize the bow hunting heritage in Missouri. I feel as a hunter I could compromise on the number of antlered deer in one year. I would be in favor of having a limit of 2 antlered deer in one year with the only possibilities of 2 with a bow or one with a bow and one with a gun. I do not like the thought of reducing the November portion to nine days. A lot of people are not able to take off multiple days in a week due to work. Allowing those 2 extra days in the season would limit the amount of time someone has in the woods. There are not a lot of people who are able to spend every day of the season in the woods. I wish that the conservation would look into changing the dates of bow season. Moving it up 15 days would lower the possibility of someone shooting an antlerless buck as well as increasing the chances of shooting a coveted velvet buck. With all this being said I think that the conservation does a really good job, and I hope they act in the best interest of Missouri residents and wildlife.

I greatly appreciate the efforts of the department to listen to all concerns and opinions pertaining to the Missouri deer seasons. I do have a problem with allowing the use of crossbows during the archery only portion of the season, I do not think crossbows should be allowed during the

archery season. I believe the true nature of archery lies within the archer holding a bow a full draw held by the archers own power, not locked in by a mechanical device attached to a stock of some kind. Please keep the tradition of archery season to bows only! Crossbow hunters have numerous opportunities to use their crossbows during the November firearms season, and alternative season in late December. Thank you for your time. S.S.

As an owner of land next to conservation land, I believe a safety issue arises with the use of a rifle on your land! Archery is ok.

I think all of these are good changes to make. The deer numbers in the NW part of the state are as low as I can remember. I also am very much in favor of allowing crossbows as a legal method during archery season.

Add crossbows to legal archery methods. Reduce length of antlerless portion. Give the youth as much time as possible to take a deer!

I am a nonresident landowner in Missouri (87 acres, Putnam county). I hunt only with a bow and decided to purchase land in Mo due to a combination of reasonable land prices and acceptable deer management policies. I am in support of shortening (or better yet moving later) the November rifle season. As stated in the information about the proposed rule changes, a firearms season that coincides with the rut is not biologically sound. I would support the change to allow only 1 antlered buck during archery season (or 1 antlered buck per hunter per year regardless of weapon). I DO NOT support the full inclusion of the crossbow in archery season. I think the non-resident deer permit pricing is reasonable. As a resident of Indiana I would benefit from a reciprocal licensing structure, but I do not feel that a reduction of cost is necessary in Missouri. I would like to see some parity, however, in landowner status. It is incomprehensible that a resident "landowner" with as little as 5 acres (I would not consider this individual even a "landowner" in terms of wildlife benefit) can have multiple antlered and antlerless tags at no cost in Missouri. Even more unjust is the discriminatory stance that a non-resident landowner, regardless of how much land they own and manage for wildlife (and pay taxes on), has no status with the MDC. I would support some minimal (reasonable) acreage for landowner privilege (generally this has been defined in other states as 40 acres minimum) and some parity of non-resident landowner status, either no-cost or reduced-cost licenses for use on the property. Non-resident landowners do as much for, and often MUCH more than, resident landowners for the benefit of the wildlife of Missouri, and should not be discriminated against. Thank you, R.

Anything to help the deer population and the health of our deer is great. All sounds good.

I think reducing the # of days available to hunt is bad for many hunters. With work and family life it's hard enough to find time to retreat to the woods. Reducing bag limit is understandable based on population goals. One antlered deer with gun and one with archery tackle for a total of two is reasonable.

I like all proposed changes except archery, leave it at two antlered deer.

I am strongly opposed to allowing crossbows during archery season. The stated goal of this change is to allow more youth hunters to participate in archery season. If this is the goal, I would

not be opposed to allowing hunters that are 16 and under to use crossbows. By age 17, most hunters would be physically and mentally capable of using a compound. Also, there is already a medical allowance available for hunters with a qualified medical condition to use a crossbow during archery season. I believe this should remain in place.

I am in agreement with all the proposed changes. Would like for the department to consider having an early muzzleloader hunt like most of the states that surround Missouri. The hunt would not have to be for a long duration but for a weekend and possibly 1 or 2 days of the following week between the archery opening and the rifle season. Having to wait until after rifle season for the Alternative Methods hunt seems to handcuff the hunters that would like to hunt with a muzzleloader for whitetails before they have had to dodge the masses during the rifle season. Thanks for the chance to voice my proposal.

In response to the proposed changes to the deer hunting regulations I suggest the following.

1. Agree with changing the firearms season to 9 days as proposed. 2. Agree with changing the youth season as proposed. 3. Disagree with proposed changes to the antlerless season. Suggest changing the antlerless season to 9 days. Starting the first Saturday in December. 4. Suggest doing away with the Any Deer tag. Change to antler tag and a doe/fawn tag. Set doe/fawn quotas by counties. This allows for more accurate control of the doe/fawn population. Currently hunters with an any deer tag can tag a antlerless deer then also take a antlerless deer on a antlerless tag. The same rules would apply for classification of a doe/fawn as the current antlerless deer. 5. Changes need to be made to land owner tags also. I know this is difficult because I am a land owner. Landowners of 75 acres or more should receive 1 no fee antler tag and 1 no fee doe/fawn tag. Landowners of more than 10 acres but less than 75 acres should have a choice of a no fee antler tag or a no fee doe/fawn tag. Note: 10 acres is the minimum to be agricultural land in the state of Missouri. 6. Tele check is easy and I assume low cost for the MDC. However I believe very ineffective. Just because a system is easy and low cost doesn't mean it works and upholds the rules. Because of the 4 point restriction on antlered deer MDC needs to go back to check stations. I have not seen an increase in trophy antlered deer on my property or anywhere in my county. I realize the backlash from both within the MDC and from hunter. However given that I still feel check stations are a necessary. 7. Agree with the proposed changes for archery season. Thank you. C.C.

I think you are doing a great job, I like changes. You could raise non-resident to \$275 OR \$300. You need better method to check in deer. I THINK too much cheating going on.

I have never considered a crossbow archery the challenge of archery hunting is drawing the bow with an animal close. Also, being an avid bow hunter that uses a bow only I don't like the one buck change. I agree the any deer season should be shortened and the gun seasons should be spread out the deer never get a chance settle down. I'm all for anything that get more youths involved in hunting. Keep the four point restriction and limit any deer permits.

I like the shortening of the seasons. I also like the later November dates for firearms because as a bowhunter it allows for some really great bowhunting action that we haven't seen in previous seasons due to an earlier gun season and added pressure. I feel like the gun seasons have had too

many days for too long. I'm fine with the crossbows and even the 1 buck archery. The 1 buck will make people choose more wisely on what to shoot and as a result we should see more bucks reaching maturity. I don't like having one youth season much less two in November. I feel like a youth season is better suited early season in the month of September. Deer are easy to pattern and weather is better. Also I feel like it will decrease the likelihood of a parent shooting for the child. I'm not completely against youth season but I do feel like the amount of kids that start hunting with their own youth season, unlike me who grew up hunting the regular season, there are far fewer who continue to hunt after they no longer are able to youth hunt. The youth season was created to get kids outdoors and as a father I'm all for that. However I think if a study was done it would be found that keeping those kids hunting after they are too old for youth season is a very small percentage of them.

Maintain the current timing of the November portion and reduce the length to 9-days-AGREE. Expand the late youth portion to 3-days beginning the first Friday after Thanksgiving-DISAGREE. Reduce the length of the antlerless portion to 3-days and begin on the first Friday in December-AGREE. Eliminate the urban zones portion-N/A. Allow crossbows as a legal method during the archery deer and turkey season-AGREE. Reduce the limit of antlered deer during the archery season to 1-AGREE.

The issues I have with the proposed changes is that we lease land for the entire season and you are reducing the opportunity for us to hunt. The land owners are not going to reduce the cost of the lease. I would like to see the alternative weapon season go back to the time it was before. Friday after Thanksgiving through the next 2 weekends. I like the idea of crossbows. Where I hunt we have not seen a reduction in the deer herd. I probably seen more deer this year than I have in the past couple of years.

Against crossbows. Completely disagree with landowner permits, you need to live there.

I do not support limiting archery hunters to only 1 buck or reducing the days of the firearms portion of the season. Most people I know that bow hunt don't shoot young bucks anyway and will shoot two only if they are quality deer. Sometimes the weather is poor in firearms portion and hunters don't have the opportunity to harvest a buck. By allowing two bucks for archery, hunters still have the opportunity to harvest two bucks in total if firearms season doesn't work out. The last few years, the firearms portion has been very fickle due to weather and this year is the first year in 3 or 4 that I actually harvested a buck. As a hunter who manages my property for harvesting mature bucks, I would like to retain the flexibility to meet my goals with the current bag limits. I do support moving the second youth season to immediately following Thanksgiving as this will be a better time for most families to hunt and the weather will usually be better.

For the firearms season: I disagree with the proposed changes of the youth season and also the reduction of antlerless season. I also disagree with the proposed use of crossbows during archery season. I also have this comment, I am sure that many of the youth deer kills are actually made by the adult hunter accompanying the youth. Some of these kids are not even able to hold a gun.

A friend emailed me the proposed regulation changes for the upcoming deer season starting in 2016. I think the proposed regulation changes are fantastic. I don't have an issue w/ a single one. I trust that the people who are employed to understand our deer populations understand what is needed to help maintain a healthy herd and promote successful harvest for future hunters. I would like to make a personal comment about the non-resident deer permit fee of \$225. It's too high. On a separate matter, I personally own a chunk of land in Benton County (191 acres). This past season I was no longer given 'land owner' tags and was required to pay out of state permit costs. I was informed that the new law says that the only way to attain in-state hunting permits is to have a MO driver's license. I currently live in TX because of my job but I spend a substantial amount of time in MO to maintain my land and my entire family lives in MO. I also lease out part of my property for a neighbor to run his cattle on it. My land improvements are providing income (albeit minimal) to local residents, my leasing is helping a Benton County neighbor, and my hunting is helping maintain the local population at desired levels (sometimes I'm less successful at it though!). I've created a Missouri based LLC and am putting the land and equipment under it as well. I'm already contributing via taxes and after I build my taxes will be substantially higher. I plan to build out there in the next year or two. With all the time, money, effort, and energy put into the property it almost seems like a slap in the face to pay so much to hunt deer on my own land. Are there any proposed regulation changes to help address the small number of out of state landowners who are as present as myself and my family? Thank you, T.

Please don't change the archery portion to just one buck, crossbows are harder to hunt with than traditional bows, so that doesn't matter, it allows people that can't hunt without one more chances too hunt. The antlerless portion would be better if moved to the second weekend in Dec., this would give the herd a break from firearms hunting. Limiting the number of tags only hurts those that hunt for food to feed their families, and there are still some of us out here that rely on venison to feed our families! As far as non-resident permits, they should have to pay the same as we have to pay out neighboring states, even a lottery like Iowa does.

I would not eliminate the urban portion of deer season to keep numbers in check to help prevent car wrecks and destruction of landscaping in these zones. I have gotten a doe the past few seasons in this time frame. I believe that allowing crossbows during bow season would be good and more bow hunters would start hunting with this type of weapon. I have no problem shorting the season by the 2 days as long as us working individuals have the 2 weekends to get out and hunt without missing work.

Do not change archery season limits. Shorten gun and antlerless season and see if that makes a difference. Are the limitations also going to apply to landowners in terms of archery limits? Maybe the number of landowner tags needs to be addressed as well.

I have seen no decrease in the deer numbers in my area there are plenty deer eating and destroying my crops but there are other areas that are lacking in the numbers maybe do these at a county change not state.

I'm against shortening the firearms portion and allowing crossbows during the archery season. What I would like to see is point restriction state wide and reduce the amount of antlerless

permits. Also move the firearms season after the rut, but allow the youth portion to hunt the rut, this would allow the mature deer to do the breeding and it might allow for some of these deer to mature by not being shot during the rut. Also a later firearms season would possibly be cooler in temperature making for more enjoyable hunt. Leave the crossbow hunt for the alternative portion or possible have two archery seasons an early and a late but only allow cross bows for the late season. It's hard for the working man to find time to take off from work so shorting the season, in my opinion, is not a good idea. Now on nonresident increases, I would charge bordering states the same price for a nonresident license as they charge MO residents for the same species. Thank you for letting the sportsman voice their opinion. MDC does a great job of managing the resources of the state and should continue to improve this. Thank you, D.

Firearms Deer Season: November season leave at 11 days. I concur with proposed change for late youth season starting on first Friday in December. I feel the antlerless portion should be closed until population is up and stable for such season. Urban zones portion to 3 days. Archery Season Changes: Crossbows should be allowed as legal methods during archery deer and turkey season. Reduce the limit of archery antlerless deer permits to one per season. Conservation Area Regulations: Yes as proposed.

I think you should leave the urban portion as is its only three days long and also leave the rifle season as is at 11 days and leave the youth portion as it is. Don't give the youth hunters an edge leave as is.

I think all the changes proposed are necessary due to the overharvest of deer the last years. (Except for the crossbow ideas). I am in favor of crossbows being legal, and being a woman, would appreciate to get to use one, as the other bows are hard to pull back for me. They also seem more likely to make a good kill. I do propose that we do not eliminate bucks as harvestable, but allow only one, 8 point or bigger. And all bow hunters to only have one buck and one doe, not however many they can harvest as has been in the last years. I have heard of people harvesting 30 or more deer for just one person, and at the current population of deer, that can wipe out a herd quick. We don't want it to get like it was in the 1930s, where deer were almost eliminated. Thank you for asking our input.

Strongly oppose reducing the length of November season but in favor to maintain the timing. Agree to expand the youth firearms and am ok to move to Thanksgiving weekend. Strongly oppose reducing the length of antlerless firearms portion, only one weekend would drastically limit the opportunity for many of us to hunt. In favor to move to first part of December. Change urban to archery, blackpowder or cross bow only hunting. In favor to allow crossbows during archery season. OK to reduce the limit from two to one antlered deer during archery season. I have no experience with out of state permits but if it is competitive based on other states fees perhaps a small fee increase is in order since it's been several years since fee increased. Always up for simplifying regulations but not in favor of CA only archery, I'm sure there are many hunters who only have the privilege to hunt in CA since it is much closer to their homes as opposed to National Forest.

All looks good but I totally disagree with the crossbow being allowed, now day they are just like a rifle, for that case just make rifles a form of bow hunting because that's what it's going to be like. I also would like to see a points restriction for Barry and Lawrence county and wish that check-in station were back cause I've seen the abuse of telecheck. Thank you.

I would not like to see crossbows allowed in regular archery season. They can be allowed in firearms season. All other changes I would agree with. I would also like to see the reduced non-resident landowner permits come back.

I agree with all changes except crossbows should not be allowed during archery season.

I think the state should allow crossbows during the archery season. The crossbow is actually older than the compound bow, so it has a more legitimate claim to be included in an archery season. I'm tired of carrying my longbow!

You didn't drop the buck limit for firearms season! I have been deer hunting for 19 yrs. and I have NEVER known a time you could buy more than ONE any deer tag! Get rid of the youth portion! 75% of their deer taken during that are shot by daddy, plus if I have to be able to count to 4 to shoot a buck so should they!

1. I say "yes" to all 4 Firearms Season Changes. 2. "Yes" to archers limited to 1 buck "No" to allowing crossbows during the archery season. However, I could tolerate crossbow use if medically necessary because of physical reasons. 3. "Yes" to simplifying Conservation Area regulations. 4. With respect to the cost of non-resident deer permits below, I had a really great and affordable deer hunt last fall in Minnesota. Don't raise Missouri's license fees since that will only encourage neighboring states to react by raising theirs. Who will the losers be? All of us who want to hunt neighboring states but find the cost of a tag too high. 5. One more-eliminate antler point restrictions or put those on next year's agenda to be further discussed.

I have grown up and currently live in Missouri. I have hunted and fished ever since I was 10 years old. I am currently 26 and being in the outdoors is absolutely my passion. With that being said I am writing today to object to making crossbows legal during archery season for "everyone". Archery season has continued to grow and become more popular due to the longer season and challenge that it brings. Now, legalizing crossbows may not significantly increase the deer harvest numbers, may slightly increase hunters during the archery season, however it will take away from that challenge of archery hunting as we and our forefathers knew it. It's going to be like implementing instant replay into the MLB. It may correct a few calls but ultimately it slows down the game, decreases umpire and manager arguments and just overall takes away from a part of the game. Legalizing crossbows will do the same thing, it will take away from a part of what it means to hunt with a bow and arrow. I would also predict that by implementing this new regulation the archery season will be shortened within the next 5 years taking away from the different seasons within the current archery season. Over the years I have learned so much about how deer move, react, travel, etc. by hunting the whole archery season and getting to witness it firsthand (summer, pre-rut, rut, post-rut). I'd really hate for that to change on account of crossbows. Now, I am completely 100% for letting those with disabilities use crossbows and I also think the same option should be available to the older generation. This will help keep the

older generation in the sport longer which will ultimately help bring in new and younger hunters. So I suggest, those 55 and older or disabled should have the option to use crossbows during archery season, and not making crossbows legal to everyone during archery season. Thanks for your time and consideration.

I have been an avid hunter most of my life. I am very interested in being able to use a crossbow during archery season. I have a difficult time pulling and holding a vertical bow, not only while hunting but it makes practicing it very difficult as well. Assuming I am able to use a crossbow during archery season, I would like the deer tags to remain the same as they are now (2 of either sex but only one antlered buck before gun season). I would also recommend leaving the second youth season the same time it is now, after Christmas. If it was Thanksgiving weekend, as proposed, it would make it difficult to hunt as we normally go shopping for Christmas presents. It also defeats the point of the second season allowing my grandsons to use their Christmas presents without having to wait a whole year.

I agree with the all restrictions to limit the seasons and tags for next year. I am 55 years old and bow hunt the most but it is getting harder every year to use a compound bow and would love the option of using a crossbow!

I think the cross bows for everyone is a bad idea and reducing the number of antlered bucks during archery season is a bad idea as well. This gives no incentives to archery. All the other ideas involving gun season are a great idea.

I think the out of state tags are way too cheap and think Missouri should have a set number of tags for out of state hunters. Not only to help the population of deer but to also help Missouri residents find decent land to buy or lease for hunting. I think public land gets way too much pressure from hunters but I don't feel safe taking my family hunting on public land because of all the gun shots going off. I say raise the out of state cost up just like all the bordering states of Missouri to help with the cost of the less hunters getting tags from out of state. I would love to see Missouri be the big buck state like Ill. Ks. and Iowa have all become.

Don't change archery season. Extend it into the rut more if anything. Rifle hunting is the destroyer of deer seasons due to over harvest poaching ect. Poaching is a very big problem in Mo. Deer will have a better chance with archery hunting as far as survival. Crossbows are stupid unless you're disabled. I can already see that as a new poaching tool. Just my 2 cents as a hunter.

I would like to see crossbows allowed during the archery season.

Based on observations in my neighborhood our deer population has decreased considerably in the last 3 years. Partially due to the disease deer we had in 2012 and by neighbors over kill due to unlimited doe permits. I agree with your proposals to reduce season lengths and the number of deer allowed to be taken by individuals. I have no problem of allowing crossbows for archery season as I personally have a permit to allow me to hunt with one. If that were not the case I most likely would be unable to participate in the archery season. I feel that it will increase the number of archers and the kill will increase, but not significantly due to reducing the number of bucks allowed. Thanks for the work you do and hopefully you will not have to deal with pending legislation that would jeopardize your programs.

I would like to see a proposal for non-resident land owners permits separated and reduced from the non-resident permits. My brother and I grew up in Adair County and we currently own 350 acres in that county. Unfortunately my brother has stopped hunting because of the non-resident permit prices. He has also stopped taking his two sons hunting because of the prices. We pay taxes on our land just like everybody else does and I don't understand the prices. It's also a shame my nephews aren't getting to experience the outdoors on their OWN land. I understand if it was 5 or 10 acres but we own 350. Please take into consideration a reduced permit price for non-resident landowners who own at least xxx acres. Thank you for your consideration.

I would like to see all the new changes put into code except regarding crossbows. We bowhunters enjoy the challenge of harvesting with the methods currently authorized. Expansion will introduce a flood of inexperienced hunters leaving a herd over pressured and injured whitetail. These folks will find there are vast differences between rifle and crossbow but I believe the consequences will be seen in the field. If regulations are tightening, crossbows will fly off the shelf to increase the season of individuals.

I believe there has been a drastic drop in deer population around Macon county. I would like to see Mo go back to a certain number of tags per county or section, with state residents getting first chance at those tags. I believe It would allow for better control of deer populations in more specific areas

I support the changes that are being proposed.

I am open to all of the proposed changes except allowing crossbows during the archery season. All of the proposed changes are to increase the deer population and to make it a better experience for all. Allowing crossbows during the archery season is counter-intuitive to this could potentially increase the number of hunters and thus deer killed greatly. I think it also takes away from the challenging sport of archery. I'm fine with it for those that have medical issues. I am also fine with cross bows during the alternative method season but I think the allowance of crossbows during the archery season would be a huge mistake. Thanks!

I am not a fan of the youth season. I think it creates an easier opportunity for poaching by cheating adults. I do not see the point of making it 'easy' for children to kill big deer thinking it will make them hunters for life. I don't agree with this thinking. I also think having a youth season means parents don't have to be 'bothered' by their children when the regular firearms season begins. Kids should learn with their parents during the regular season. They need to learn it isn't always easy. That said, I do not agree with lengthening the youth season. I do agree with the archery change to allow crossbows. This saves me from spending a lot of money to go see my doctor to get permission for a permit as I do have a badly torn rotator cuff and cannot draw my compound bow anymore. I personally would like to see more effort to get older people and more women hunting than expanding youth opportunities. The youth have it easy enough as it is!

I would like to see the gun season moved from the middle of November to the first part of December. I agree with the proposed youth season change. I agree with limiting the antlerless portion of the season. I agree with allowing crossbows during archery season. I disagree with the change on number of bucks allowed during bow season. This will do nothing other than penalize

the hunters that put in the extra work. The percentage of hunters that harvest two bucks is such a small percentage it will have no effect. I would like to see coyote season extending to all year. They have a large impact on deer numbers especially during the fawning season.

I have no earthly idea why you are making the changes. I don't know why you cut back on doe tags to begin with. I personally never fired a shot this season, but saw more deer and more good bucks than I have in my life in central state, Pulaski and Miller counties. I let several 150 class deer walk and saw a couple of deer in the 160 and 180 class. Numerous small bucks and numerous does. This floored me that you cut back on the tags this year and now considering doing even more? You guys need to rethink how you count. I know we have the best conservation department in nation, but something is wrong with this picture.

I am both a firearm and archery hunter. I am all for the proposed firearm regulation changes and would actually like them a little stricter than that (7 day firearm season). I believe the proposed archery regulations would be a bad idea and counterproductive to increasing the deer herd. Limiting one buck for archery season is irrelevant in my opinion as I know very few hunters that actually fill both tags anyway. Opening it up to crossbow is a horrible idea and will bring many more hunters into the woods who do not have the skill nor determination to archery hunt, more deer will be taken and it will increase the amount of pressure over a 4 month season. If you open it up to crossbow then you might as well make firearms a 4 month season.

I don't know what rock you're living under but I have not seen a reduction in deer population that would warrant this change.

Proposals I like: Reducing the length of rifle season and reducing the limit of antlered bucks in archery season to one. Proposals I don't agree with: Allowing the use of crossbows during archery season. Hunters that cannot use a compound bow can already get a permit to use a crossbow. It is easier to kill a deer with a crossbow than a compound bow. More deer will be killed with a crossbow archery season and deer numbers need to go up, not down. Also, since more people will be buying and using crossbows, this will lead to more poaching and reduce the deer population even further. Changing the second youth season dates - The first youth season is the best time of the year to be deer hunting. I do not feel they need another season that soon after rifle season. I think it's a good idea to give the deer a break from the rifles. That weekend is also when many people go out small game hunting and trapping and the youth season would interfere with that.

Think it's great idea! Wish you would put in your alternate season a pre-1898 single shot metallic cartridge w/o scope. Think Miss. has some kind of law for that. Maybe you could check their regs. Thanks, T.B.

Reduce the antlerless season and allow 1 antlerless deer and one buck for firearms season. Only have early season youth hunt (too cold and too few deer in late season). Use crossbows during bow season, with one buck and one antlerless deer per season. Reinstate muzzleloader season with one buck and one antlerless deer. Incorporate the alternative season into the firearm season. The seasons= 1 st archery 2 Youth 3 muzzleloader 4 firearms.

I am 100% against the proposed change to allow for the use of crossbows during archery season. I feel as though the number of harvested deer will drastically increase. I am also against the proposed 9 day firearms season. Due to schedule conflicts a 9 day season wouldn't allow me to hardly hunt at all. I feel the same goes for many others. Personally when I have less time to hunt, I feel the pressure to not wait for a fully mature animal thus prompting killing of younger deer and reducing mature buck numbers. Overall I feel as though the seasons and methods now are effective. The issue, I believe, lies in the amount of deer that people are allowed to harvest (tags allowed) and the amount of taken deer that go unreported (untagged) each year.

1. I think the firearms season should stay 11 days long. 2. I don't think youth season should be expanded to include Thanksgiving weekend. Most youths get the best chance to harvest a deer during the early youth season. I'm convinced that some, not all, parents are the ones who killed those big bucks shown in the paper during early youth season. Ever been to a Pinewood Derby? If you have, then you know what I'm saying! Neither kids nor their parents need to get an extra chance over Thanksgiving. They can still hunt with their parents during the other remaining portions. 3. I agree the antlerless portion should be reduced and should begin after Thanksgiving. However, I think it should last 9 days but limit the number of harvested antlerless deer based on county population data. 4. I live in a rural, not urban area, but I think deer populations and safety issues should determine the regulations. 5. I adamantly disagree with allowing crossbows during archery season. I started archery hunting in my 50's. With today's bow systems, which have highly adjustable draw weights, almost anyone young and old can pull a compound bow of 35-50 lbs. Therefore, archery season should be reserved for those who put forth the time and effort to gain proficiency with a bow. This is a particularly bad idea at a time when we are trying to increase deer populations. Once crossbows are allowed, it will be very difficult to restrict them later if deer populations continue to decline. Please don't make this change! 6. I agree with limiting archery hunters to one antlered deer during archery portion. 7. I don't hunt on conservation lands, so I think the regulations should reflect best deer population management practices, safety issues, and facilitate regulation enforcement. 8. Not on the list, but here goes. I think alternative methods should include crossbows, black powder rifles (but not in-lines or scopes), compound bows, and any of the other more exotic methods listed. The methods should not include center fire pistols, in-line black powder rifles, black powder rifles with scopes, or black powder pistol with scopes. Thank you for providing the opportunity to give input.

Bring back the check stations in the CWD zone to test deer for CWD. That needs to be done ASAP.

I support the changes you're proposing. I have noticed far fewer deer on the public land I hunt, which is a part of the urban zone for deer hunting, located at the far north end of Clay County. I have also noticed a lesser decline in the other parts of the state where I hunt. I believe the season changes you have proposed will help this problem. As far as crossbows during the archery season, I again agree with your proposal, not only for the reasons you stated. It's just a factual reality that the harder you make it, ie. rifle to muzzleloader to crossbow to compound bow to recurve/longbow, the more poor shots will be made. This results in more deer being shot but not

recovered. To this end, more deer have to be shot, and ultimately killed, to fill tags. The only argument I have heard against crossbows being used during the archery season is that more deer would be killed. I just don't think that is true. I know how many deer I want to harvest, as I'm a meat hunter in addition to being a trophy hunter, and when I have reached that number, I quit. I have also had a shoulder injury one year which almost ruined my archery season. I had to hunt from an elevated stand, as I could not raise my bow with my left arm high enough to shoot from the ground. So for those with medical/physical problems that would restrict them from hunting with a compound bow, the crossbow could help them continue to hunt during the archery season. And for the traditionalist argument, a compound bow is no more traditional than a crossbow. In fact, crossbows have been around for centuries, while the compound bow did not come on the scene until the last half of the 20th century. So, to reaffirm, I agree with your proposals.

I would not like to see the regular season reduced down to nine days. I like the idea of allowing the crossbow, but not the reduced limit of one antlered deer. Other than that, I like the current deer regulations.

Each year for the past 7 years I and nine other hunters travel over a 1000+ miles (Florida, Georgia, Michigan and Louisiana) for the opportunity to hunt in Kirksville area. Our landowner breaks up the hunting season into two sessions. We hunt the second session. What I would like to express is that we arrive two days prior and spend two nights in a hotel, dine in the local restaurants and prior to moving into our cabins, we buy ALL of our groceries, fuel and tags in the Kirksville area. We're all business men and know the value of shopping with local merchants. All totaled, we inject \$16,000(including our hunting dues) into the local economy each year for 7 years. A shortened rifle seasons will more than likely cause our land owner to shorten our stay which will cause us to cancel or relocate our annual trip. It's our feeling and I understand we do not reside of the great state of Missouri but one buck and one doe per hunter is more than sufficient. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

The deer population is way down from where it should be, I think the late youth should be closed and so should the antlerless. I would like to see it be a one buck bow and one buck rifle again. I think Missouri should also be a reciprocal state on out of state tags.

I want to know if the conservation dept wants to kill all the deer east of Kirksville. I don't believe wiping out the deer is the answer. Iowa isn't doing that. I don't believe you can be successful by killing mostly healthy animals. It's a darn shame what you are doing. I would rather take our chances, CWD may not kill many but your people will for sure. Many landowners won't let you shoot them so you can't complete what you want to do anyhow.

I am ok with rifle season changes. I do not favor allowing crossbow during archery season. It is already easy enough to get a crossbow permit if you want it. I am ok with the one archery buck limit but if you do not allow crossbow then it's probably not necessary. I think conservation area managers should have some latitude in setting regulations on their areas.

I do not agree with reducing the doe season to 3 days and moving it to Dec. I also don't agree with moving the youth season to the day after thanksgiving.

I agree with all the proposed changes, except allowing crossbows during the archery season. Modern crossbows require no real skill, and are just as accurate and lethal as modern rifles.

I like the idea on all of it, especially the crossbow hunting. It will get a lot more kids involved in bow hunting if they could harvest their deer with a crossbow.

I am all for allowing crossbows during season. I don't see the point in limiting archers to 1 buck with a bow because of how few actually kill multiple bucks. I agree that the rifle season should be limited to 9 days and also **STRONGLY** feel that it needs to be moved out of the peak breeding period. At least move it back to the last weekend in November. Urban hunts are needed, do not eliminate. I appreciate all of the effort that you all put in and the fact that you all are willing to hear out the public's opinion. Thank you, C.

I'd like to put this opinion out: Most of the resistance that we have seen from towards the option of moving the season back, has seem to come from a different generation than mine. I'm 31. I find myself knowing the older generation as some of my best friends, but they have way different views on deer than I do. They will shoot any 125" deer that they see and sometimes any buck. I believe that they have the "have to kill mentality" because unlike now, if you didn't get a deer in the 70's and 80's, you weren't considered a good hunter I guess? Now a person cannot kill a buck for several years and know what plans he has for his property or goals. I guess in short, my thoughts are that we are trying to oblige a generation that is different than ours. Most of my generation has different goals. Moving the season back a week would help obtain those goals. The opponents of this idea can look at other states and realize that they will still get to shoot their deer, nothing will change. Not only will their hunt still be good, they will be great in time. "Meat Hunters" will say that the move will reduce their chances at shooting deer. That is bogus. The deer aren't going anywhere, drives will not be more prevalent. It will keep the one, two and three year old buck that a meat hunter would love to shoot and dress. Those same meat hunters then hang up the horns that "they can't eat" or "care nothing about". This is the step that needs to be made. The step needs to be made soon. Thanks for the consideration, A.P.

I agree to limiting archery to one antlered deer. I think there should only be one youth season held on the weekend not extended. I think the doe tags should be limited according to the deer population per county. I also believe that there needs to be more action in preventing poaching. Also, more action or teaching the public on the spread of herd diseases. As for crossbows, I think they should be limited to people with disabilities. Thank you.

1. Reducing length of firearms season to 9 days, agree. 2. Expand youth season to 3 days, agree. 3. Reduce antlerless season to 3 days, agree, but would like to see it eliminated. 4. Eliminate the urban zones, agree. 5. Allow crossbows during archery season, agree, if not for everyone at least for the youth and elderly. 6. Allow only one antlered deer during the archery season, agree.

I appreciate all that you do to manage the wildlife of Missouri. I personally feel that out deer numbers are declining and I'm grateful that you are taking the appropriate steps to keep the population under control. I agree completely with the proposed changes and understand how you came to this. Keep up the good work!

I moved to Missouri from Virginia last year and was shocked that crossbow use is limited to those with a permit to hunt deer during the archery season. After checking regulations in multiple states, it appears Missouri is one of a few states left that has not made crossbows legal for full inclusion during archery season. I hope this changes for the foreseeable future. My crossbow is primed and ready for use.

I'm in favor of the proposed regulation changes for the 2016 - 2017 deer season. I particularly agree with allowance of crossbows for archery hunting, maybe for older and younger hunters if nothing else, and requiring hunter education for crossbows similar to the firearms requirement.

It should be overtly shared with the public what percentage of the total buck harvest is comprised by hunters using the second archery antler tag. Without that information the only input received will be based on emotions. Doesn't the harvest data (from Missouri and other states) indicate that without moving the firearms season later in the year the proposed changes won't make a significant difference in buck and overall deer harvest?

Just curious on what percentage of archery hunters use their tags on 2 bucks, I always buy bonus antlerless tags to save my 2nd any deer tag for hopefully a late season buck, but that tag has always went unfilled, due mainly to me passing up younger bucks. I would rather see an antler point restriction to give the younger bucks a chance to grow, which I think would accomplish 2 things, it would lower the buck harvest for a few years, but after that, the people would be seeing bigger better deer. I appreciate MDC doing a tough job, and mostly a thankless job. Thanks so much. L.M.

Change the antlerless & alt. portion. Add more for the youth and leave the reg. season 11 days. Thanks.

I live in Warren County and I think we need to do all we can to kill as many as possible. My family has been involved in 7 deer/vehicle collisions in 18 years around the house here. Also, the point restriction sucks. I/we in this family hunt for the meat not the antlers. Yes we shoot does but the b.s. of bragging about a big buck shows little respect for the deer we hunt. All animals we harvest are "trophies.

I think you should be able to use a crossbow in bow season.

I think most of the purposes sound great and right on point. I especially love the crossbow expansion! I really wish that you would expand baiting laws to more mirror some of our surrounding states. I don't support baiting on public grounds; but private property owners should have the right to bait if they want to bait. Not everybody has the time, the land or the money to do food plots or standing crops. Just wanted to put in my 2 cents. Sounds like otherwise the new regulations are on point. I do wish that rifle season could be moved up earlier like it used to be since your cutting down hunt time.

Missouri deer season does not need to be reduced to nine days. If anything it should be extended another week. If you shorten the season, not only will we lose important monies for conservation, but we could also lose the desire to hunt.

I own 2,200 acres. My whole family likes to hunt every day of the main season plus a lot of bow hunting. Tired of non landowners hunting property borders and poaching. Any resident with less than 100 acres should have to pay 90% of nonresident and nonresident isn't high enough.

Would like to keep crossbows the way they are with doctors permit. I bow hunt because I like being in the woods alone and it will be more like gun season with more people.

I think that the MDC has Missouri wildlife and its hunters in its best interest and I want whatever it takes to preserve being able to go hunting every fall and keeping Missouri's whitetail populations at a healthy level for both man and beast so if that means setting new regulations to make that happen then so be it.

I love these ideas. It will help deer grow and the crossbows will help the women and kids who can't pull a compound bow. I agree with the decisions 100 percent.

I believe the MDC is doing a great job. My only comment on the proposed changes is in regards to the crossbow use for all hunters statewide. I feel that the current policies are sufficient where archery season should be for vertical archery equipment. Those that want to use archery equipment actually do. Crossbows for the medically impaired and handicap is a sound alternative. When allowed for use by all, the dynamics of archery hunting may change where the discipline required to humanely take a whitetail may be lost leading to waste. Of course I'll support whatever decision is made and I may be way off base. But of all proposals, crossbow use allowed for all is the only one that doesn't sit easy with me. Thank you.

I would be agreeable to all as temporary changes. I utilize Conservation Areas for the majority of my hunting and would like to see archery antlerless tag use more liberal on Conservation Areas if the number of antlerless tags are reduced. My suggestion would be to allow one any deer archery and one antlerless archery tag, one firearms any deer tag for a given CA. I understand some areas can't support this but I believe most could in my area of Central Mo. Thank you.

I like the new proposals.

All changes ok except leave the 2 buck limit alone for archery. The 2 buck limit does not affect the overall population unless you are promoting a big buck program. I am not a horn hunter.

I agree 100% with your 2016/17 potential changes. I believe like everything else you have to change with the times and it's times to change, as you did back in '96, '01 etc. I hope this happens because as a land owner and avid hunter in Dent County this little change would have a huge impact. Keep up the good work MDC!

I see no problem with what is being proposed. It gives the bucks a better chance to mature and healthier herd. I would like to see the state allow the use of baits such as grain or any other attractant for deer hunting. I think this would bring more deer to one area and a hunter will be able to harvest a mature animal versus harvesting a less mature animal. Many other states allow the use of baits. I feel we are behind times on not allowing this.

I support the recommendations of the experts! Please adopt.

First off, I want to say that I like to hunt and have the opportunity to take a mature deer in the 4 1/2-6 yr old class. So in saying that, I know my opinions are going to be different than a lot of

hunters. You have got to do something different with our season time frame and limits on buck harvest. We're losing large #'s of bucks in the 1yr-2yr old class every yr and its destroying our chances as hunters to take a mature deer in the 4 1/2-6yr old range. I hear the old famous saying all the time when your around other hunters (you can't eat them horns) well that is true, so for those of you who hunt by that method practice what you preach and stop shooting young bucks. Take a doe, let the bucks go and grow up. As far as the changes proposed, here's my opinions. The early youth season hunt needs to move to mid-October like our neighboring states Illinois and Kentucky, if you want to expand the season that's fine make it 3 day weekend following Christmas Day. In regards to the November portion of our rifle season, I think our season should move to a separate 9 day season starting 3 days on the 3rd weekend in November with a one week break between each additional 3 day portion with the season ending after the first weekend in December. Let's try this for 3-5 yrs. I would love to see shotgun/muzzleloader only as well during this period but I know that's a far cry. After this period I think re-open a 9 day consecutive season starting the 3rd weekend in November and limit one antlered deer ALL SEASONS COMBINED. In doing this you can still leave the antlerless permits as is, in the counties listed and everyone can still have the opportunity to fill their freezers. Having a 3 buck limit, all seasons combined right now is just not going to work, something has to change. Crossbows, I'm ok with allowing crossbows for everyone to hunt with, as long as you reduce the number of antlered deer permits allowed. 3 Buck limit is not going to cut the mustard. If it stays the way it is now I'm totally against legalizing crossbows for everyone. Conservation ground, I'm ok with simplifying the rules but you can't take away opportunity for people to hunt who don't own their own land or have permission to hunt private ground during all portions of the deer seasons. If anything you need to change the rules on conservation ground and make it where if you kill a deer you can use an ATV or electric powered buggy or something to help people get a deer out of the woods. it's too hard on people not to mention somewhat dangerous when it comes to dragging a deer out of the woods 1/2 mile or so by yourself. That alone keeps hunter participation down on conservation areas because it's just too hard to hunt and it's not enjoyable. Also one last thing you need to raise the cost of non- resident permits for deer and turkey. Missouri is way too cheap on these permits, increase the cost and use the extra \$ to benefit Missouri hunters.

I support all of the changes with the exception of allowing crossbows during the archery portions. The only authorized crossbows should be for disabled hunters who are unable to use a compound or primitive bow.

I agree with all of the proposed changes to Missouri's deer seasons. The addition of cross bows will increase hunter participation however. At the same time, it would allow smaller kids to hunt during bow season and get more kids into hunting. I especially like the changes proposed for youth firearms season. Thanks for all you do!

Don't move the late youth season up to November. Bow hunters don't have a chance as it is now to hunt undisturbed during the rut period. First the early youth and about the time deer resume their natural pattern gun season opens. One week after gun season would be another youth

season. Let the bow hunters have a chance when deer are settled down and gun hunters are out of the woods. Also, by letting hunters use crossbow will just result in a lot more illegal deer being crippled or killed. Give "true" bow hunters a break. Youth get the best weekend as it is now.

I love the MDCs willingness to hear public demand and propose changes. I am very excited to see the reduction of buck tags for archery season. I do however feel that shortening the firearms season will do nothing to change management efforts or deer population. No one hunts the last Monday and Tuesday of firearms season and deer are usually so spooked after the first 3 days of the season That it's pointless to even hunt. The only way to change deer management or population expansion efforts is to move firearms season out of the rut. Move it to the 1st week of December like Iowa's season. This will deter fair weather hunters and make hunters have to actually hunt for a whitetail. The time of the year it is currently allows for the most non-serious hunters the ability to hunt the primetime rut and harvest Whitetails out of blind luck. Give this privilege to serious hunters and archery hunters by pushing back the firearms season to the last week of November or first week of December. Also, eliminate doe season all together. It's just another reason to give a poacher or unethical hunter to take a high powered weapon in the field, shoot a buck and tag it with an archery or other type of tag. You want to shoot a doe? Do it during the already established firearms, archery or muzzleloader season. Keep up the progression MDC. I love where Missouri is heading with deer management.

Shorten the firearms to 9 days, shorten the antlerless portion but I think there still needs to be an urban hunt. While I do not hunt the urban portion, I have been on the receiving end of 2 deer strikes to my vehicle in St Charles Co. I am also in favor of the cross bow option. Thank you for listening.

I agree with all the proposed changes except the 1 archery buck tag. The crossbow should only be able to be used by disabled for archery season and for gun season only. As for the rest of the ideas you have listed, I agree with all of them especially the antlerless season being brought to 3 days.

I have plenty of deer in northwest Butler County; however, they don't seem to be very large. I would be in favor of returning to a nine day season.

I'm ok with the firearm season changes. My problem is with the bow season changes! First with the buck bag limit, the percentage of bow hunters who kill both bucks is probably not real high anyways so I think we should leave it alone and let bow hunters have that chance at 2 bucks. My biggest issue is with allowing crossbows! I am an avid bow hunter and I am also not fortunate enough to have my own land so I hunt a lot of public land. Right now I am able to hunt public land without seeing a ton of other hunters which I believe helps my chances. If you allow crossbows it will make everybody and their brother think that they are bow hunters and the public lands will be loaded with wanna be bow hunters with loaded weapons with a scope. For all the bow hunters who spend countless hours practicing to become better hunters, let's leave the crossbows for disabled people. Thanks!

We should maintain the same time span, as we have right now on all of the above. I do not think any rules, laws, or times should be changed.

Crossbows are acceptable. I do not agree with any of the proposed changes in the seasons. The success rate for the youth hunter would be reduced dramatically.

I think these are all great! We need more regulations on our deer herds. I like to go to the woods to kill deer but I probably get just as excited to sit in the stand and see deer. I haven't sat in the stand just to see deer in quite a few years. These new ideas will help deer population and I think that is very important. I would also like to see an antler restriction in all counties in MO especially in southern MO where I am from.

I'm a fan of reducing the days of rifle season to 9 days in November, as well as reducing the antlerless portion. Really I like all the proposed changes except restricting archery to one antlered deer. Perhaps restrict it to just 1 before rifle season and 1 after?

Deer season should left as is in Pulaski county. We have way too many does and we do not have a does season only. As a farmer I can see 10 to 15 does in my field on any given day. They are tearing up my fences, but by your rules I can only take one buck and maybe two does. Why should I be limited on my own property. I also have a fruit orchard and they are killing my trees and destroying or eat the fruit on the trees. But once again according to your rules I can kill them. If they are your deer then keep them off my property or pay for the damages. The only reason you manage the deer is for PROFIT. Also, pay for the accidents that your deer cause!

I agree with all the changes but I do not agree with allowing crossbows. Young adult hunters will go on a killing spree with the cross bows. The challenge will be gone. Hunting with a compound bow is the challenge, it is why you are itching to get back in the tree stand the next day. By the time gun season gets here young adult hunters will already of harvested 2 or 3. Seeing that big 10 pointer at 30 yards away and you release that arrow and hit a tree limb is what makes it challenging. I totally disagree with allowing the crossbows except for the hunters that have the medical slips to be able to use it.

Crossbows should only be an allowed method for the injured and the elderly. Please don't let popular culture influence bow season.

I agree that reducing the amount of time available to hunt would help the population. The area that I hunt has someone out there almost every day from Sept to close and we harvest a lot of deer. The only question I have is regarding the urban season changes. If the areas of highest car accidents related to deer are in the urban zones, why not keep the extended season? Just a comment as I am not certain that this is the case. My other questions are concerning the non-resident permits. It seems right to me, but I don't know the facts behind the number of out of state hunters vs residents that we see each year. It's a bargain compared to what we pay to elk hunt out west. I defer to your studies and research. Thank you for your continued efforts in keeping this great tradition!

9 day season, yes - move youth season, yes - antlerless to 3 days in Dec., yes - eliminate urban season, don't care. Allow crossbows, yes - Reduce antlered deer to one per season, yes. Conservation areas, limit to archery and muzzle loaders only, no rifles. After watching the video on the proposals to next year's deer season it sounds like the issue is a stable deer population, I

agree with most of what you propose. I do believe the whole state should be regulated to the harvest of bucks with 3 or more points per side. I have hunted deer for well over 50 years, I have yet to see a true trophy buck worth putting on the living room wall, have seen a lot of "nice" bucks and have shot a few "nice" bucks during gun and bow season, but no trophy bucks, yet. Appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposed changes, I hope the survey and town hall meetings help you decide which was to go on all of the regulation changes.

Archery Season changes- Yes on crossbows, no on the limit of only one buck. November firearms season, yes to 9 days, do not expand the later youth portion, yes to limiting the antler less portion to 3 days. My opinion about youth season, it should be after regular Firearms season.

There is no shortage of deer in Clark County Missouri. I own 113 acres and see deer as often as I want to see them. I always have guests and we kill anywhere from six to ten each season. Don't shorten the seasons! I hunt deer every day of the season and pass up many of them. I like to watch them.

1. Archers should still be able to kill 2 bucks, but only if he does not shoot one with his firearms tag. This would allow him to bow hunt after gun season. And then if he still has not killed his 2nd buck he could muzzle load hunt later in season. 2. Have we thought about requiring youth season killed bucks to be checked in to ensure the bucks are legally and ethically killed? I fear that too many dads are killing bucks and tagging with youth tags. We want to ensure future hunters with this program but I think we should ensure ethical hunters for the future as well!

I enjoy rifle hunting and do not like shortening the season by 3 days. I prefer adding the 3 days to the front of the season so it starts 3 days earlier than usual so as to catch more of the rut. Total season 11 days. And prefer the 4 pt rule again in Macon co. As a landowner I see my land value going down due to lack of big deer in this unit and eliminate high fence hunting in mo. and deer breeding. I had some deer 10years ago but downhill for then.

I agree with all the changes. I like the adding of crossbows to archery season and the limit of one buck for archery season us old guys can get back into archery season now.

I agree with most of the proposed changes. We have far fewer deer than even five years ago mainly due to EHD. This past 2014 season, I saw a total of six deer both bowhunting and firearms as well as muzzleloader. From my observations here in Southwest Missouri, our buck numbers are fewer than before, but still on the OK side. But, we're going to have to strictly limit or eliminate the shooting of does altogether for a year or two. I would, of course, like to see does back in season once our numbers are back because I love the meat. I think most thoughtful hunters would agree that we need to leave our does alone for a while because that's where our overall population can increase.

Leave the firearms season and alternative methods portion alone, you need to shorten the bow season, Sept.15 to the middle of January is just crazy. THINK!

I would agree with these changes.

I would approve of these changes.

I like all changes except, maybe, crossbow. My question is, do you have to apply for special permit for crossbow or can anybody use them? If anybody can use them I am against it. You can shoot 50+ yds easy with crossbow. By the way, antler restriction was a great idea seeing a ton more mature deer. Thanks.

I am against allowing crossbows for anyone to use during archery season. I have no problem with someone with a disability using them. Archery season has long been coveted by passionate and committed hunters. Please do not taint this by allowing crossbows. If someone wants to just point and shoot, then let them use it during rifle season.

In my opinion, I believe shortening the length of the season is a great idea along with the already revised amount of antlerless permits being allowed to be purchased. In the two places I hunt I have noticed a substantial decline in the amount of deer seen while hunting in the past 3 years and I feel this will help. Diseases cannot be controlled but the amount of animals we are allowed to harvest can be and I think this is a step in the right direction. I think moving youth season is a great idea. The weather will typically be more favorable to have kids out in the woods during November than dealing with the cold temperatures of January. I believe allowing crossbows will make archery season an option for many additional hunters. For example, my dad is getting older and has more trouble with drawing his bow and feeling comfortable shooting it, but he still loves to hunt during archery season. I think this will be a great way for him to continue to do that along with many other seasoned archers. My only question would be what is the possibility of moving our gun season to the first of December and having an early muzzleloader season which would be very similar to neighboring states such as Kansas and Iowa? I feel like this would help substantially with the age structure of our deer herd. I know that some people do not trophy deer hunt and their goals are not to kill an upper age class of deer which there is nothing wrong with but I feel those people would be presented with ample opportunities to kill a deer in December but it would allow for many of the deer to increase in age due to the fact that the main portion of the rut would take place with a much smaller amount of hunters in the woods. I appreciate the fact that you all have decided to ask for input from the public on this matter and thanks for taking the time to hear my opinion.

Regarding proposed deer hunting regulation changes for 2016 - 2017: FIREARMS: I approve of all proposals. ARCHERY: Do NOT allow crossbows during the archery season. Reducing to one antlered deer O.K., as long as we agree to go back to two when the population recovers. To be determined by the biologists. CA AREA REGULATIONS: Approve of the proposal.

I was mainly wanting to comment on the reduction in time of the Firearms Season Changes; I think the November portion should not be shortened at all. I feel like there is an adequate number of deer to replenish our deer herds with the season the length it is currently. I feel that the deer population is on the rise rather than a decreasing rate and they need to be controlled with a heavy heart due to increase in car collisions involving deer. Concerning the urban zones: I feel that there should be an increase in the number of deer allowed in urban settings as well. The limitations which are being observed for the Conservation Areas I believe are a good idea due to

the fact that there are so many people utilizing these areas. I also feel like limiting the methods allowed in these locations is a good idea.

Firearms Season Changes: I don't think shortening the time of the season is a good idea. I don't think urban zone hunting should be eliminated; if anything, there should be a greater quantity harvested in these zones. I also think there should be a selected group of people to hunt near roadways. I think that this would decrease the number of automobile accidents and in turn will lower insurance rates around the area. Conservation Area Regulations: I feel that the limitations being put on antlerless permits as well as methods allowable are a good idea.

I'm commenting in response to the one buck only with a bow. I don't think that should have a dramatic effect on our deer population. I used to see at least 20 deer a night during bow season, now I'm lucky to see 3 or 4. Reason for this is the slaughtering that goes on during rifle season. I feel like the way Illinois has their season set up works outstanding. Rifle season should either be changed to the dates of Illinois season or we should have our season within so many days you have to kill a buck weather its opening weekend or second weekend and no more than 3 does to be killed between rifle and bow seasons.

Do it.

Great proposal and thanks for allowing for public comment. I agree with everything except for the use of crossbows. Crossbows provide an unfair advantage to those that use them. I wouldn't be surprised if harvest numbers increased due to the crossbows extended range.

I cherish my time as a bowhunter and take pride in harvesting deer with archery, legalizing crossbows is a slap in the face for REAL bowhunters. Save crossbow for handicap or elderly hunters. I have an 11 year old son that can shoot deer with archery why not everyone! Youth season needs to be moved to teens of October and eliminate late youth totally and age should be 10-13. 6-7 year olds have no business hunting with high powered rifles, they are spoiled. Most quit hunting when they can no longer youth hunt, you would be shocked how true that is.

I would support all the changes proposed. My only concern would be the use of crossbows for 100% of the archery season. Maybe a shorter (30) day season use of crossbows?

I think for the most part the changes proposed are a step in the right direction and are fair. I would not mind seeing the antlerless permits for archery hunters, of which I am one limited though. With archery hunters being as numerous as they are and as effective as they are now, and possibly a few more joining the ranks with crossbow inclusion I think it would make sense to limit antlerless tags for at least the near future.

I agree with the proposal to reduce the season. Yes, it definitely stinks for hunters like myself but it's for the health of the deer population. It's a change for one deer season but I feel they should be adjusted annually based on herd health and population. But if the season is going to be reduced, then so should the fees for hunters. Many of us are dependent on that meat to feed our families and if there's a reduced bag limit then it needs to be made worth our while financially. I appreciate you taking the time to hear our comments. I hope everything turns out well. God bless.

I am not in favor of allowing crossbows in the state of Missouri for any and all hunters to use. I believe that if you ARE ABLE to draw a compound, recurve and/or longbow, you should be held to that ability. I am in no way against the usage of a crossbow for disabled or elderly people. I have a friend who is in a wheelchair, who has been for several years, and he is able to use a compound bow and DOES. I do not agree with all of the comments stating phrases like "getting more people in the woods". This could be extremely dangerous for public land hunters. Social media and tv shows such as The Walking Dead, show a guy named Darrell walking around with what seems to be a Horton Crossbow shooting zombies, empowering viewers to believe they will become invincible if they have a crossbow and I believe this will flood the woods with extremely inexperienced individuals proclaiming themselves as hunters when in reality they are a danger to all other hunters but MOST OF ALL they are a danger to the animals they are trying to harvest (shot placement etc.). Furthermore, these inexperienced "hunters" will be running around creating havoc in a whitetails life that will send 90% of deer into nocturnal lifestyles. I am 22 and have been bowhunting for 12 years now and it is my 1 true passion. With that being said, I'm seeing a lot of comments stating it will get children involved in the sport, when I started I was 10 and able to use a compound bow with a 35lb draw weight. Although, that's not an ideal weight draw it was enough for me to get my first bow harvest. I have a respect for this sport that would go unmatched to anyone's and I believe part of that was me having to work for it to get to that draw weight! My girlfriend is also a bow hunter she weighs about 112lbs and is able to draw a 45lb bow, this also contradicts any comment regarding more women involvement in the sport. With the regulations as they are, it is an even playing field for all hunters, disabled, elderly or the "average Joe". I could go for days about this topic but the bottom line is I am against this idea for opening crossbow usage to any and all hunters. Thank you for allowing me to voice my opinion and thank you folks for ALL you do for this sport and this tradition! PS. I would love to see firearms season moved to Dec 1 as Iowa does!

I understand there aren't enough deer in the northern part of the state but in the south and the Ozarks I seem to see plenty. Could the changes not be regional? The antlerless season seems to be gutted, why not just eliminate it if that is the plan and extend the normal season to what it was. No changes to alternative methods? With crossbows the female population might benefit from that change. I have no issues with my compound.

I am a 28 year old female and I am in a wheelchair. My boyfriend got me involved in the sport 5 years ago and since then I have taken 4 deer with my COMPOUND bow. I use a bow tech heartbreaker and if I can do it I don't see why everyone else couldn't! I'm not against elderly or disabled people who have permits to use a crossbow. I am against able bodied men and women using crossbows where it is not a necessity. Also, If I had access to 2,000 acres of private land I may not be so senical, but I'm not as privileged as most.

I am not in favor of allowing crossbows during bow season!

I don't see a need for crossbows to be expanded. I like the idea rifle season slides a week later.

I think the firearms deer should be later in the year. I remember, when I was much younger, the season was set to have Nov. 15 in the first week of the season. That has seemed to be consistent.

I would suggest that timing be adjusted to have Nov. 18 be in the first week. This would delay the season slightly and would do more to produce larger and older bucks than any other of the proposed regulations. On a different area, crossbows, I think the current police is far better for hunting than just legalizing crossbows. I saw the evolution of bowhunting in Missouri to compound bows and I don't believe legalizing crossbows will achieve your objectives. I killed my first deer in Missouri with a bow in 1970 and still use a bow. Crossbows for everyone will be a step in the wrong direction.

In regards to the firearms season, I agree that due to current deer numbers the regular season should be shortened, but I don't like the current timing. I think you should move the opening day one week later so that it runs through the Thanksgiving weekend. I think making an earlier second youth weekend is a great idea, but I would rather see it be the first weekend in October. I feel an antlerless only season should be eliminated or restricted to very few counties for the next few years and also if necessary to have then make it a weekend in Oct. We should be targeting antlerless deer before the rut, not after and during. In regards to your archery changes, although I probably wouldn't consider using a crossbow until much later in life, I fully support any methods that allow people to enjoy this sport. Missouri allows air guns and spears, why not allow crossbows too? As I've mentioned before, I think with current herd size and disease issues I fully support a single antlered deer limit. Finally for conservation areas, I think antlerless harvests should be by archery only. I fully support the expansion of more CAs only allowing archery or alternative methods.

The youth season is a joke, way too many guys are shooting deer for their kids instead of the children shooting them. I say make the youth season doe only. I think extending the youth season doesn't really make any sense if you're shorting the rifle season for everyone else. The only other thing, in my opinion, was maybe have a crossbow only season for deer and turkey in mix it in with bow season and that would generate more money for the MDC. All the other proposals I didn't really have a problem with.

Population in my area is on steep incline. Favor reducing antlerless season over regular. More days for youth, excellent/way overdue idea, be nice if it could be prior to normal gun season, much like spring youth turkey. 1 buck for archers and allowing crossbows, both excellent ideas.

Good changes, allow crossbow inclusion into archery portion.

If you do open archery season to crossbows, you should cut it back to 1 buck with a bow. BEST would be to be 65 yrs of age or have a valid handicap to use a crossbow. Please do not lengthen the youth season. Please do not do away with the urban zone hunts.

I have no issue with the proposed reduction in length of the November firearms season. However, I would like to see Missouri move its main firearms season to the beginning of December and still retain its four point restriction in most counties in order to maximize the potential of increasing the mature buck population. I have no issue of expanding the late youth season or reducing the antlerless season but those dates would obviously need to be reconsidered if the main firearms portion were to be moved to Dec. No opinion on the urban zones really as I have not been able to participate in those. I am torn on the crossbow proposal. As a father of

three children I see the advantage of allowing crossbows as an additional way to increase youth activity in the hunting sport of archery. As a son of an aging father who enjoys archery hunting I also see the ability of him being able to continue in the archery tradition as he ages. However, I also theorize that adding one's ability to use crossbows during the archery season would significantly increase the amount of hunters in the woods during archery season. That in itself isn't a negative, especially when considering the amount of revenue for the great conservation dept of Mo. However, with the increased amount of hunters also comes the increased amount of harvested/wounded game. If the plan of the conservation dept is to start increasing the heard size again, this seems to be contradicting that goal. How about a proposed addition of allowing youths the use of crossbows and stay with the current crossbow doctors release exemption? I also propose a cost increase in the out of state hunting tags. We have seen an increase in the amount of out of state hunters over the years. Several bordering states have higher tag costs and I feel our state is missing out on the revenue advantages associated with increasing this cost. On a more serious note, I would really like to see the conservation dept take a more aggressive approach to curtailing the CWD issue that is ongoing. We have a potential epidemic brewing. I greatly appreciate the opportunity to voice my concerns and hope my opinions have a fair evaluation during your consideration of your proposals. Thank you.

Feedback on the Department's regulations under consideration for the 2016-2017 deer season. I agree with 3 out of 4 firearms season changes except want to keep the urban zone portion. I disagree with the proposed archery season changes and like it the way it is. People who need crossbows due to physical disabilities can easily get a doctors permission. 2nd buck in archery season is an incentive to get out in the woods and does not have a big impact on the buck population. If crossbows were allowed for everyone, then limit the number of bucks to one during archery season. Crossbow hunting is much easier than traditional bow hunting and will have a bigger impact on harvest numbers. More bow hunting accidents may occur because these bows will be cocked most of the time because of how difficult it is to cock them. I agree with proposed conservation area regulations.

Most definitely not in favor for crossbows being used for the regular archery season. No no no!

I am not in favor of allowing crossbows in the state of Missouri for any and all hunters to use. I believe that if you are able to draw a compound, recurve and/or longbow, you should be held to that ability. A show called "The Walking Dead" has glorified the use of the crossbow. While it may get more people in the woods, it also gets a lot of inexperienced people in the woods. These people are not only a danger to other hunters but also to animals they are trying to harvest (shot placement, etc.). These inexperienced hunters creating havoc in a whitetails life, will send 90% of deer into nocturnal lifestyles. I have been bowhunting since I was 12 and was able to use a 35lb draw at that age, there is no excuse for an adult. With that being said, I am not in favor of allowing crossbow usage for ALL hunters during archery season. Thank you!

Do not allow crossbows during the archery season. This would be an utter disaster.

I am in favor of reducing the firearms season from 11 to 9 days. I am a bowhunter and I would still be able to hunt on those days. I am also in favor of expanding the late youth portion to 3-

days beginning the first Friday after Thanksgiving. I don't feel that the youth season has a great effect on overall deer harvest anyway and it would give kids a better chance of success as well as allowing more kids to hunt over the Thanksgiving holiday week. I am against reducing the length of the antlerless portion to 3-days and begin on the first Friday in December. Most seasons we try to take a doe off of our property in the late season for management purposes. The current length of the antlerless season allows for that. I have never been affected by the urban zones season. I am against allowing crossbows during the archery season. I understand the appeal. I have an older father and young nephews who this could benefit. I do most of my hunting during the archery season and I am afraid that crossbows would reduce the advantage that a bowhunter has of seeing deer during the archery season. If I could see some research that shows that crossbows do not greatly affect the archery season that I could be persuaded. I am afraid that archery season would become another firearm season. I am in favor of reducing the limit of antlered deer during the archery season to 1. I don't know of anyone that has ever shot more than one antlered deer during archery season anyway. I am not in favor of reducing the limit of antlered deer during the archery season to 1. I would like to have the option of shooting more than one doe with my bow if I felt that I or our property needed to for management purposes.

My opinions are as follows: 1. Maintaining the timing of current firearms but reducing from 11 to 9 days. I have no concerns one way or the other. 2. Expanding the late youth season and moving it to the day after Thanksgiving. I am adamantly against. Although archery season is much longer than most other seasons, most archers can only get out on weekends and holidays. Archery season is constantly infringed upon by youth seasons and firearms seasons which are set when rut activity is the highest giving the hunters their best chance for success. Why can't little Johnny go hunting during the regular seasons with Dad or Grandpa? Why does the archer have to take a back seat to increased opportunities for less dedicated or part time hunters and miss out on prime rut activity? Archery tactics are tough and require skill, and countless hours of scouting and planning. Then when increased deer activity is starting and the archers chances for success are starting to rise along comes youth season which puts additional pressure on deer movement and making older smarter bucks more wary or even completely nocturnal. To move the late youth season to the weekend after Thanksgiving is huge stick in the eye bow hunters. Who wants to take all the time scouting and planning if when your greatest opportunities for success are going to be impeded by youngsters stomping around the woods during the peak of the rut? Additionally, there is high percentage of dads and grandpas who are actually taking the shot for little Johnny and little Suzy. If the kids are interested in hunting having a separate season isn't going to make them more or less interested. 3. Reducing the antlerless portion from 12 days to 3 and moving it to December 1st. Again, the bow hunters will take a hit so I'm opposed. Leave it as is. Most bow hunters have moved on to hunting coyotes by then. 4. Eliminating Urban Zones. No opinion I haven't studied it enough to comment. 5. Allowing crossbows during archery season. I'm not against it totally, however I believe it should only be allowed for senior citizens or handicaps who can no longer draw a bow at a reasonable poundage to kill a deer or youths who cannot yet pull back the appropriate draw weight to kill up to the age of 14 or 15 maybe.

6. Reducing the number of antlered deer from 2 to 1 for archery season. Okay? So you want to move all the other seasons into the normal archery season and reduce the number of deer bow hunters can possibly take. WOW! What does MDC have against bow hunters? Definitely against! In closing, I thank you for considering my opinions. I am confused however about one thing. Given the concern regarding the spread of CWD, why in the world would MDC want to increase deer concentrations which would lead to more deer to deer contact and an increased chance of disease spread. Missouri should be aggressively reducing Deer numbers in the containment zone and surrounding areas. MDC just increased regulations on the captive cervid industry and now it wants to increase deer populations which will lead to increased risk of CWD spreading. That seems like more of a power grab on the private sector if your plan is to increase deer concentration and increase the risk of disease spread. This entire plan is contradictory to the common sense and reason one would consider given all the CWD scare propaganda MDC and QDMA has been pushing over the past several years. I don't deny CWD is serious and I have researched it in great detail. That's why I think we should be reducing deer numbers in these areas until CWD is controlled or eradicated. I usually support MDC in its management practices but this looks like big Government style behavior. Increased regulation on the Private Sector by exploiting Missouri's deer herd and the hunting industry, then turn around and behave contradictory to the experts testimonies and recommendations by increasing deer numbers and in turn increased deer to deer contact and increased disease spread creating a bigger tragedy which can be further exploited for more regulation. I would have never expected this from MDC. This is very very disappointing. I don't care if Missourians want to see more Deer. Until CWD is under control more deer is NOT the answer!

I like that there will be a crossbow season. I do not get to go out that much as it is but shortening the season just takes more days that I can go out away from me. I also wish you would make it so that landowners can designate an offspring to claim their landowner tags when the owner does not hunt. By making it so that the person that claims their tags can only live in their house takes away from children that would like to hunt and use the land tags. If there was a way to create a landowner tag designation form for the land owner it would be nice.

Have archery and firearm hunted deer for over 30 years in Missouri. The number of deer taken by archers are low and pressure is relatively low. MDC's proposal to allow crossbow hunting during archery season will have significant negative effects for the archery and firearms hunter. If not initially, within a few years there will be more crossbow hunters than archery. This is going to ruin the archery hunting for archers. It will also reduce the number of deer available during firearms season not to mention the effects of all the additional hunter pressure. A much better solution/option for all hunters is to create a separate crossbow season just like muzzleloader. Crossbow is just like shooting a firearm and should NOT be allowed during archery season and for the same duration.

I would have no problem with any of the changes except the length of the doe season. I do like having a choice of weekends if one doesn't work then the other but that is not a priority for me. Thanks and keep up the good work. K.

I agree with letting crossbows be used during bow season. Also, I agree with the one buck a year with a bow or crossbow. I hunt in Miller county. Thanks and I hope these changes happen. Especially the crossbow used during bow season. Also, can there be some change in fees with out of state hunters who grew up in MO that come back to hunt with family? My brother does not have a lot of money and only comes back to hunt when he has the 225 dollars to pay for the tag. Hunting is as much about the hunt as it is spending time with family. It would be great if a reduced fee for former MO residents could be arranged. Thank you.

I strongly disagree with the following: Adding a 3rd day to youth season, allowing crossbows during archery season, reducing the amount of antlered deer to 1 during archery season, reducing the antlerless portion to 3 days, and eliminating the urban portion of firearms season. As a hunter and having shot a crossbow, it is FAR too easy to shoot a crossbow accurately and therefore should not be allowed in the archery season.

1. I agree - allow crossbows. 2. I agree - shorter season dates and limits on tags. 3. I propose - alternative methods to run 5 days at the end of October, to include traditional sidelock percussion and flintlock rifles and pistols, longbows, atlatl - to exclude modern pistols, modern in-line muzzleloaders! Even if you won't give traditional hunters a better time frame, modern in-line muzzleloaders should be prohibited during alternative methods dates.

I like the idea of using a crossbow deer in bow season. I think you should charge out of state residents more and lower residence deer tags. Arkansas residents only have to pay \$25 for all of their tags. Have you guys ever thought about doing a Missouri Arkansas State Line hunt like you do the fishing license?

Non resident deer permits are too high. The non resident isn't going to have a voice here because they can't attend the meetings. The residents are going to want it increased to keep the out of state hunters out

I marked that non resident fee is too low because it is compared to other similar states. However, there should be exceptions if a nonresident owns a big amount of land.

Yes to all regulation changes, except for 1 buck during archery season. Keep it the same 2 bucks, only 1 before rifle season. By allowing crossbows will decrease the number of wounded deer. How many deer get shot with a bow and are never found do to gut shots? Crossbows have scopes and will make a clean shot easier for those who do not put their time in at the target in the summer.

Yes, crossbows need to be legal for all if they choose to use them. I have a handicap permit now, but used a compound bow earlier.

I strongly oppose eliminating the urban zones portions for the firearms season. There are still far too many deer in urban areas (I'm only familiar with the Kansas City area). I understand that controlled hunts seem to be the preferred method for taking deer, but this proposal only appears to be on here due to "safety concerns". Have there been many accidents in urban areas due to deer hunting during the firearms season? I do not believe it makes sense to move forward with this idea. I strongly agree with expanding the late youth portion of the firearms season. This will

help encourage young Missourians to get more involved in hunting and will promote positive firearms experiences thereby ensuring a more safe environment in the future.
Hold the firearms portion one week earlier so rifle hunters can hunt during the rut. Eliminate antlerless or any deer permits during rifle season or only on last weekend. Bucks only 8 points or larger only recommended.
I have traveled and hunted Missouri. Great hunting there. I can see where these changes would be positive for management purposes
Why shorten the season length for firearms? Don't take the 2 days away. Not all can hunt weekends and to take that opportunity away! No on lengthening the youth season. If you cut the firearms season by a few days. Move the opener back two weeks to first week in December.
I support reducing the November portion to 9 days. I strongly disagree with having crossbows legal for all hunters during archery season. I believe the antlered deer limit should remain at 2. I believe antler point restrictions should be expanded statewide.
I am in favor of all the proposed changes. I particularly like the crossbow method during archery season. I am no longer comfortable that I can make a clean kill with a normal bow at this stage in my life.
I am for opening the crossbow option. I never like hearing a decrease in the number of hunting days. I would like to know what the thought behind it is. I lived in Missouri for 24 years of my life and still visit family. I would love nonresident to be lower fee.
Max 1 buck per hunter per year period. If people want to kill more bucks they can travel to another state and pay the high prices. If they want to kill more deer they can shoot does. Allow crossbows for anyone during archery or for at least 1 week at the end of October. Charge nonresidents what their home state charges Mo residents. Way too many archery fans commenting. I think in your survey you should distinguish between archery and firearm comments. Laws shouldn't be passed or changed for a passionate few. Like changing all the laws for what happened in Ferguson. Do what's best for all not just a noisy few.
I like all the purposed changes except crossbow during archery. I also don't feel the deer population is as strong as it was a few years ago and needs to rebound some.
Bow season needs to be shortened and also firearm season until deer population can be brought back up to good numbers
I think they should reduce antlerless season to 5-8 days instead of 3.
I started hunting Mo. In 2007 and our deer sightings have went down every year. The herd is hurting in Sullivan county. We hunt 8 different farms spread out through the county and the neighboring farms all say the same. I think MDC should cut back on tags some. When the farmers start getting upset about not seeing deer you know something is wrong. The next move from them you'll see like in my home state of Pa. They will all start posting their property and once they start they never open it back up.

I think if you want to increase the deer herd I think you keep everything the same except for you move the doe season to before rifle season and just have it a Friday-Sunday this way all the bred does aren't being killed in December.

I favor all the proposals and commend them except would make couple suggestions: Allow the continued hunting by archery for 2nd buck for individuals who purchase rifle tag. This would generate additional tag revenue for bow hunters who want to continue hunting. There is also a lot of sales tax revenue generated by bow hunters hunting till the end of the year. Also, the number of bow hunters actually filling 2 tags is probably nominal compared to the economic impact the continued hunting would have. Season long hunters are also much more likely to be passionate conservationist who also provide a lot of habitat improvement to our whitetail herd. Please consider moving rifle season to December as an option also.

I would like to see the firearms season stay at 11 days. I would like to see the antlerless firearms season reduced to 3 days. I would like crossbows to be completely eliminated from archery season including disabled hunters because crossbows are not comparable to other archery methods and also because it is too easy to obtain a disability permit to use a crossbow under the current regulations. As a compromise, I would be open to the idea of a short crossbow season occurring at some point during the fall. I would like to see the archery buck limit stay at two. I have not seen the numbers but the bowhunters killing a second buck is likely a very small percentage of the overall buck harvest. I would also like to see the antler point restriction eliminated for archery hunters. Bow hunting is very difficult and these hunters should be rewarded for their effort and patience. I would like to see a minimum age limit put on youth hunters. I understand the desire to recruit youth to hunting but when done at an early enough age it is counterproductive.

I do not like the idea of letting people use crossbow during archery season. How is that gonna help the deer population? Everybody and his brother that never archery hunted before will be out there. I've been a bow hunter for around 30 years and I hope this doesn't happen. Cut back on the number of doe tags shorten the season but a crossbow is not archery. From my point of view looks like that's MDC plan cut back on doe tags you lose \$ so let's open archery season up with crossbows that way you sell more tags. But it's not fair to us true archery hunters. Non resident tags, why not get some of the money back from them? I mean, they can come here and afford ridiculous money on leases they can afford to pay more for tags. Now we know what most people want more big bucks. Kansas Iowa Illinois land of the giants. Why not Missouri because we are the only one that our rifle season coincides with the rut. Move it around do it like these states do. I work construction and I've worked in all three of these states and I've seen it with my own eyes it works. I think we should go back to having checking stations to many people abuse the new system. But whatever you do please don't ruin archery season by adding crossbows to the mix

Do not allow crossbows!

Eliminate point restriction on seniors. I'm 68 and like most seniors our eyes are not what they used to be. Trying to count points is not as easy anymore. Allow crossbows for seniors. Many of

us do not qualify for a waiver for health reasons but even a compound bow is difficult as we lose upper body strength. Younger people have yet to experience the body's decline in strength as they age. I still like to bow hunt but every year it becomes harder to draw and hold.

Changing the youth season is an awesome idea. It's a better time of year all the way around. Decreasing the antlerless portion I don't think is a good idea. Controlling the doe herd is key in good management practices. The FA season being only 9 days has proven effective in the past, so definitely. As far as crossbows being used during archery, absolutely not! Unless the person has a medical reason. It takes away the point of archery season. It's showing our youth the easy way out by using a crossbow. Archery season isn't an easy hunt! If it were everyone would do it!

Regulate season by area i.e. northeast area etc. I live in the northeast in a rural area and I have not seen any reduction in the amount of deer I see on a daily bases. I have seen more bucks with great racks than ever before. Population may be down in other parts of the state. I think season and regulations should be set by zones. The map of the state provided in the Deer Regulation pamphlet would designate the season length and the number of deer that can be taken. In my area the regulations from 2014 were adequate.

Hello. It appears to me that the number of days open for firearms deer seasons are being reduced: except for the late youth season. It can then be concluded that the deer populations are no longer as high as they have been and there is a no longer a need for the longer seasons. Is my conclusion correct? If my conclusion is not correct, I have to question the need to shorten the season lengths. If the deer populations are not lower, then I would think that shortening the seasons would only encourage irresponsible individuals to take game unsafely or illegally. Also I did not see any mention of hunting with the Atlatl. It is my opinion that if anything should be changed it should be the elimination of hunting with an Atlatl.

I am a landowner in Monroe county. I own 100 acres totally dedicated to my personal hunting and I agree with all of the proposed changes.

I agree on your purposed regulation changes. There are too many hunters taking too many deer in a single season. No hunter needs more than two deer! I've worked with MO Conservation and Soil & Water for many years in Crawford County where I had a 122 acre farm. One antlered deer & one doe would allow other hunters a chance to at least get one deer.

I think you need to rethink the telecheck. I have witnessed the taking of illegal bucks on properties adjacent to the property I am hunting on. Because of trespass laws I am unable to collect information for MDC on violations. This system is way too easy to cheat on the point restriction rules. The landowner tag system needs to be reduced as well. Many landowners fill up on their tag quotas and have friends and family members shoot as many as possible. Farm/ranch families may not have family members that hunt but they get tags on their names and fill tags with other shooters or just one or two shooters. Counties need to be looked at county by county, not by zones as each county has their own deer population that differs. Thanks for listening to an old deer hunter.

I am an ex Missouri resident who lives out of state and owns land in Knox county. Our local deer herd had not suffered from EHD and the population is stable. I share crop and ride in the

combine and can see the crop damage. I understand populations are down in some locals, but not all. Habitat loss is a problem! Encourage CP-33 at competitive rates, that will help the farmers and the animals. Leave the rifle season as is. It works well with people's lives. Adjust the harvest with doe limits and antler point restrictions. I like antler point restrictions, it leads to bigger and smarter deer and discourages long range indiscriminate shooting at running deer. If you want to shorten the rifle season by 2 days fine, but not sure it will effect harvest numbers. Youth Season: if you want to move it to after Thanksgiving that is fine. Doe Season: Eliminate it, if you want to grow the deer numbers than why have this. Archery Season: please NO CROSSBOWS for everyone. Leave it as is or put an upper age like 65 on it. My father is 85 and still hunts in MO, he transitioned to a crossbow 2 years ago, that is who the rule is intended for. I know you can use crossbows during the alternative season and I think the rifle season, that is enough. In my opinion you will see more wounding with crossbows, they are really no more accurate and I fear the hunters will practice less. Archery 2 buck limit: PLEASE LEAVE THE 2 BUCK ARCHERY LIMIT, it allows me to hunt more and later, this leads to more trips to MO and more money for local businesses. No serious archer is going to shoot a smaller buck in the late season, but it is a great draw for the serious trophy hunter, or let's face it we hunt to see deer and have fun, with a tag in your pocket you are always in the game mentally. Unlimited archery does: Please keep it. If you are seeing so many does that you can kill with a bow, then your local deer population is high and needs to be reduced if you so desire. Your call on the urban deer seasons. Please open coyotes and bobcats for that matter to properly licensed hunters to use centerfire rifles while deer hunting during the rifle deer season. Coyotes are known fawn and adult deer killers, they are tough to reduce, why not legally reduce them during deer season. In summary keep the 2 bucks for archery, I would leave the rifle season length. Antler point restrictions for the whole state. Eliminate the doe only season. Crossbows as is or for >65, agree with moving the youth season.

I do not agree with allowing crossbows during archery season except for in cases of disability or for adults over sixty-five years of age. Crossbows provide accuracy advantages over normal bows and an even more significant advantage in not needing to be drawn in the presence of a deer. Additionally, two antlered deer should be allowed to be killed during archery season and the antlerless season should be removed or at least reduced.

I do not agree with the reduction of the antlerless season from 12 days to 3 days, it would be better if it were changed to 4 days split on two weekends. I do agree with allowing crossbows as a legal method for archery season.

As for your management changes, I'm least impacted as I am primarily a bow hunter. My opinion is if the MDC was really interested in managing for bigger bucks, you would move the firearms portion to December after the main rut. Why do you think Kansas and Iowa lead us consistently in harvesting 200+ inch bucks? Move archery season back to Oct 1 and extend until muzzleload in early December. Open the regular firearms season in the middle of December. I also think these changes are being proposed as our whitetail population is not as robust in previous years. More potential problems ahead the department is not being forthcoming about. EHD made a huge impact. There is no time for the department to be politically correct at the

publicly held forums. Missouri hunters are owed open and HONEST communication about our deer. I am also standing against the Missouri Legislature butting into the MDC's business.

I would support shortening the regular firearms season to 9 days. I also would support shortening the antlerless (doe) season. I would like to see the urban zone hunts reduced or done away with. Any opportunity for expanding youth hunting would also be supported. I enjoy taking advantage of other hunting opportunities in the state, but it seems that deer season never ends.

I support the proposed changes with one exception: I do not agree with allowing crossbows to be used during archery season with the exception to allow disabled hunters to use them with a doctor's agreement that the person is disabled. Not having the physical strength due to be old or female should not be a reason to allow for this exception.

Rifle season shortened to 9 days. One any deer ant two antlerless tags for any method. Youth deer season in September for 9 days! Having it two weekends makes it difficult for split families. This would also move it away from Halloween. Thank you.

I'm fine with all the changes except reducing the archery bucks to 1.

MDC agents are too passive compared to Kansas agents. I never see an agent in the woods. They're all lazy, hitting the bridges bugging fisherman on Saturday morning, & too lazy to get out after dark & catch poachers.

Really need to take the rifle season to after the rut! Makes it too easy. Its already easy enough being able to take 300 yard shots. Other than the low non resident fee everything else seems fine!

I would like to see crossbows allowed during archery season.

Timing of rifle season needs changed, not just the length. Season needs moved into December to avoid the rut. Total bucks allowed should be 1, not one for archery and one for rifle. I like the late youth season being extended to 3 days.

I don't like the 9 day season idea. I like the crossbow idea. I'm indifferent about the youth season and I would like to keep the urban hunt.

I think that you shouldn't shorten November portion, but do away with urban portion. Don't cut number of bucks during archery. Crossbows should be allowed.

I would like to see MO go season lengths like IL or IA. 3 days 3rd weekend of November then a 3 or 4 day season end of November or first part of December. We all know that probably won't happen so I'm ok with it going back to 9 day season. I sort of disagree with the one buck limit with a doe. I think we should have the option. One buck with your bow before gun season then I buck for gun season unless you don't harvest a buck during gun season then you may kill another with your bow. Let's be honest how many people kill 2 MATURE bucks with their bow every year? I would have to believe the percentage is pretty low. So 2 bucks either both bow or one with a bow and one with a gun. 3rd I highly disagree with the crossbow idea. Let's leave those for the kids, old folk and disabled and then put a quota on out of state tags.

About time you all considered crossbows for archery season. I would put a lot less pressure on gun season and let us bow hunters hunt more.

Deer season firearms: Leave the same amount of days of hunting. Change the timing one week later in the month. Youth season: Yes, include Friday in to youth hunt. Antler Length: Do not change any antler length restrictions. Urban Zone: No comment. Archery season: Do allow crossbows as legal hunting method for deer and all turkey seasons. Archery Season: Do not reduce the number of antlered deer for archery season. Conservation areas: Do limit antlered and antler less to one per person per Conservation areas. Archery Season limits should not be altered unless, permits are allowed for any deer or turkey during anytime during the season and can be used in any order or anytime. Archery season is for the sportsman who goes afield often and enjoys the outdoors and nature. Archery harvest does not have any type of impact on deer management like firearms season does. It should not be altered unless it is to help the archer to achieve more of the outdoor opportunities. If anything was to change that would help the deer management better for hunters is to only allow one season you can hunt. Whether it be firearms or archery, you can only hunt one season not both. If purchase an archery permit you cannot purchase a firearms permit. If you purchase a firearms permit you cannot purchase an archery permit. Only one type of method should be allowed per hunter. The use of crossbow would allow for more hunters to be involved with nature and be in the woods more often and would bring more hunters in to archery season.

Allow crossbows during archery for all people. Limit it to one buck during archery.

I would like to see one buck tag total, for all seasons, not just eliminating one from archery. I'm fine with shortening rifle season, but would prefer it be moved from early November to late November. I'm not in favor of adding crossbows to archery season and I think it would be a great idea to move youth season to late September or the first weekend in October. There isn't any reason to expand the youth season. Shorter doe season is fine, it doesn't affect my county.

I agree with the use of a crossbow during archery season as a way to get more youth involved in the sport.

I agree with all the changes except allowing crossbows. Crossbows are just like a short range rifle. As in regards to allowing only one buck in archery season, too many bucks are being harvested at a young age because you can kill a total of 3 with archery and rifle. Over all good changes.

I think the changes sound fine. Anything to make hunting better.

I like all of the proposed changes, especially leaving the timing of rifle season alone. I think in addition to the ones proposed the MDC should consider eliminating unlimited antlerless tags for bowhunters. I live in an area where 2 guys who live off of permanent disability. They have a LOT of free time on their hands and spend much of it killing 5 to as many as 8 does a year. This has a devastating effect on our local deer herd at times and robs many, including the youths in the neighborhood, a chance of a harvesting opportunity. I realize this is an uncommon problem, but it is one we have dealt with for several years. Thank you.

As a firearm and archery hunter I'm not in favor of allowing crossbows during the archery deer and turkey season. I don't believe it invites younger hunters to enter the sport. The majority are

introduced to firearms and graduate to become archery hunters with natural progression and love for hunting whitetails. However, I do believe it would prolong participation for older hunters. I also believe archery provides an opportunity for a hunter to exercise their skill with a bow to harvest an animal and makes the hunt more challenging. Crossbows aren't traditional bows and if anything should be allowed in the firearms portion or crossbow only season. This may help to introduce hunters to the concept of hunting with alternative methods in a progression of their skills and provide simple transition from firearms to crossbow to traditional archery. I'm most in favor of adding a separate season for crossbow and limiting the total number of deer that maybe harvests (Bucks). Fully support the reducing the buck harvest during archery season from two to one per hunter and I believe it will make hunters more selective and help more bucks reach older age-classes. I'm a nonresident hunter that grew up in Missouri and I've traveled back to hunt every year since the age of 18. I'm also a landowner in Missouri and have seen the MDC remove the non-resident landowner permits and raise the nonresident fees over the years. I'm not in favor of raising the permit fees for nonresident hunters. In my opinion, MDC has taken the right steps with antler restrictions to make Missouri a very competitive alternative to hunting surrounding states. However, it takes time and I don't believe the general public views Missouri in the same light as the surrounding states when it comes to hunting trophy deer. I realize the business aspect to the proposal, but I think the fess should stay the same or decrease to entice hunters to enjoy what Missouri has to offer and how the MDC is building and managing the herd. Also, I would encourage them to bring back nonresident landowner permits as they once offered. I have growing family of hunters and I'd like to bring them back in the years to come, but the costs of nonresident tags may make that impossible or very difficult to pass along the traditions of hunting in Missouri. Final note, I do believe the MDC has managed the deer herd and population well and from my own personal hunting experiences in the state over the last 35 years have seen the results not only in the harvest of higher quality deer, but also the hunting experience. I consider Missouri my home and it offers some really good whitetail hunting and very interested to see how the MDC manages it in the future.

Like them but do like Kansas. Gun season not during rut. Also, antler restriction needs to be implemented.

As an avid rabbit and small game hunter, I have sent my comments to the conservation many times over the years about the length of all the different deer seasons. It is difficult to hunt public ground without interfering with some sort of deer hunter early in rabbit season. I realize deer hunting is economically "big"; however, there are many of us small game hunters who run into the problem I described above. I am all for the cut back from 11 days to nine days of gun season and I am a deer hunter. Moving youth to thanksgiving from Jan. only makes since as the weather normally is better and they are off school at this time. I am opposed to three days and think two is sufficient. I agree that antlerless should be reduced to 3 days compared to 12, with bow season being as long as it is there is ample opportunity to take more deer. Urban hunting is a waste, too many city ordinances to deal with and, as a delivery person in St. Louis county, I have not seen any type of reduction in number of deer or number of deer auto collisions, eliminate it. Crossbow

usage should be allowed. I have always thought it unfair that archery hunters could harvest 2 bucks, definitely reduce to one. Thank you for allowing me to express my feelings on these changes, Sincerely, P.S.

I think that 3 day antler less season is great. Moving primary rifle season would be a great thing to do but only reducing days will help some. I think that one youth season is enough I don't see the need in a late youth hunt.

Firearms Season Changes •Maintain the current timing of the November portion and reduce the length to 9-days. Firearms season should be set back a week and reduced to 9 days. Pulling the season out of the peak of the rut will reduce stress and allow more bucks to reach the next age class and more breeding to take place. The 2013 attitude did not reflect this but, this is the time to revisit this option and present it from the hunter standpoint of having a better chance to harvest a trophy class buck in the future. And we would achieve the biological goals. •Expand the late youth portion to 3-days beginning the first Friday after Thanksgiving. Yes, I have never been in favor of the late youth portion. Deer are just getting used to not being shot at and are trying to recoup from the rut. On that note, archery season should end either December 31st or 15th. •Reduce the length of the antlerless portion to 3-days and begin on the first Friday in December. Eliminate the antlerless portion. Is this resource benefit or hunter benefit? If a hunter wants to fill their antlerless tag they should do it during the regular season or alternative season. At this point hunters are complaining there are no deer; personally I think our deer numbers are where they need to be. This is the best time to eliminate the antlerless portion to feed off this opinion. I think it would be accepted. •Eliminate the urban zones portion. As long as other seasons are maintained to control numbers. Archery Season Changes •Allow crossbows as a legal method during the archery deer and turkey season, against. A crossbow is not archery equipment and the process/mechanics is not the same. Crossbows are already allowed during firearms and alternative season. A crossbow is more aptly an alternative weapon. Crossbows will not be a recruitment tool for archery. People who use crossbows do so because they cannot proficiently master the bow. The exception is the individual who has a physical disability and they are allowed through exemption. •Reduce the limit of antlered deer during the archery season to 1, No opinion. Conservation Area Regulations •Simplify conservation area regulations by limiting methods and use of firearms and archery antlerless permits, yes.

I am opposed to the use of crossbows as a legal method during the archery deer and turkey season. I am an avid bow hunter and I frequent conservation land in Greene, Christian and Taney counties as well as multiple private lands across MO. I choose to hunt archery due to the "challenge" that I get and being able to see deer in a non-pressured state. I feel that allowing crossbows takes this challenge out of the out of the sport. Some will argue that today's compound bows are as fast as any crossbow which is true, but the hunter must still draw and hold his draw before released. I believe this is why MDC disallows devices that holds compounds in a fixed/drawn position. Being a physician I do have a lot of patients and I also have family members with shoulder issues whom are unable to pull a compound or long bow. I understand

this and I feel MDC makes concessions for those peoples by having an alternative methods season.

I like the idea of one buck with a bow. I think the addition of crossbows during archery season will nullify the bucks you are saving by limiting the harvest to one due to increased harvest success with the crossbows. I 100% think the nonresident tag prices are too low, we hunt bordering states and pay consistently higher prices. I personally would like to see the rifle season moved out of the peak of breeding season, were killing our mature bucks before they can pass their genetics on, leaving less dominant bucks to breed our does, instead of passing the dominant genes from generation to generation. My final request would be to make the 4 point rule statewide. I live in Taney county, which is not under the rule yet, but we like to harvest mature bucks as much as our northern Missouri hunters do. I don't feel like the state warrants splitting the management rule right through the middle of the state. Given the opportunity the southern part of the state has trophy potential just like the north counties do. We deserve the opportunity to manage our deer herd here just like they do. Most hunters here shoot the first buck they see, just so they can say I harvested a buck. This mindset and practice needs to stop. This last year was the worst year I've seen in 20 years for buck sightings. EHD hit just as hard here as anywhere the last few years and our herd needs that opportunity to rebound just like our northern counties.

I agree with all proposed changes except the need to medically qualify for use of crossbow during archery season. Allowing everyone to use a crossbow would take away the challenge that makes bow hunting special and unique.

1) Reducing days of November hunt, Ok. 2) Expanding late youth season, No. 3) Reducing length of antlerless portion, this is too big of a deduction, 12 to 3 days, No good. 7 days would be ok. 4) Eliminating urban zones, No. Too many car accidents now with animals in highly populated areas, look at the numbers. 5) Use of crossbows as legal method, Ok. Older hunters and disabled hunters deserve this change. 6) Reducing the limit of antlered deer from 2 to 1 during archery season, Ok, how can you monitor this in rural settings where the good ol boys butcher their own? The ones that aren't conservationists, all about what they think is right. 7) Permit fees, increase fees if it means more agents on the ground monitoring poachers and people just doing whatever they please just because they own the ground and feel it's their right to do whatever. They're going to destroy hunting for the hunters who want these God given rights to be able to be passed down to generations to come. In a perfect world, a lot of these changes are right and good but unless you can monitor and make examples of the law breakers, the 'so called hunters' that have been doing what they want will keep on doing what they feel is their right and the people that want to make sure this tradition/heritage is passed down will keep on doing the right thing and follow the regulations.

I fully support all of the proposed regulation changes. The dept. knows better than anyone the best approach. I've seen the antler point restriction improve the quality of bucks without a doubt and it was a great move by the MDC. I'm a bowhunter and firearms deer hunter. 1 archery buck tag is fine and I don't see that we need a long firearms doe season. To improve revenue, I'd really

like to see the MDC revisit the free land owner tags again. I think a land owner should have to own at least 40 acres to get free tags. 5 acres is really just a big yard and its crazy that people can get tags for themselves and family members with 5 acres. Thank you.

As long as we maintain 2 weekends of firearms season, I have no issues with shortening the firearms season by 2 days. I've been hunting since I was 13. The weekends are still my best bet to get out and participate. If that were removed, I'm not sure when I'd be able to participate due to work/family life. Allowing crossbows is something that I can see being positive and negative. More archers means more money, but at the same time, that could increase the deer harvest, which is something that is trying to be fixed so that there are more opportunities. I think allowing crossbows for older hunters is a good idea, but not for younger hunters. Urban zones should be kept as nothing else really keeps the deer population in check except hunters and car accidents in those areas. Reducing the archery antlered buck harvest is also something I do not want to see. The opportunity to get another buck keeps more hunters in the woods. Very few go back out just to harvest a doe. Take away this option, and many hunters may skip going out in the woods again once they get their first buck.

I like the proposed changes and I am especially for allowing archers to hunt with crossbows. It hasn't harmed the deer hunting in any of the states where it is allowed! I have a lot of \$ wrapped up in my Excalibur Crossbow, and I would love a chance to use it in my home state of Missouri. It doesn't provide any great advantage, other than being able to keep it drawn back. You still have to get a good close range shot.

We will be in Kirkwood to share our concerns and, unfortunately, our disappointment with these considerations. We completely disagree with the argument of reducing the deer harvest, while allowing crossbow for everyone?! That doesn't make sense. While we respect the commission, we strongly disagree with parts of the proposed changes, and believe that other measures will prove more successful.

Support reducing rifle season to 9 days, use of crossbows during archery season, pushing youth season back to the later date, reducing antlered buck to only one during archery season.

Allow crossbows for archery 1 buck tag for all seasons 1 antler less tag per hunting type. Allow baiting like other states. 3 day youth season.

I believe we need to move the firearm season up a week, make it sooner than what it is. I agree on the crossbow proposal. Open method of taking antlerless, why limit them?

For the most part I agree with your planned changes except for allowing crossbows without a permit during archery season. Crossbows should only be allowed if there is some kind of issue restricting someone from drawing a bow. I personally obtained a permit a few years ago due to a shoulder injury and never used it since it felt like cheating. I hope you reconsider your stand on crossbows and leave it to true archery methods.

Happy to see the response to the latest information on the deer herd. I hope we can keep the crossbows to be treated as a gun. I would like to see youth moved farther away from gun season. I want to see more regulations on dog hunters to deal with trespassing and deal with illegal deer

hunting. I also want to see MO catch up with the rest of the country when it comes to poaching fines. I also want to see a much more active education program for all hunters so they can make better choices when they make harvest decisions. Please reduce the individual hunter tag limits.

I think that allowing the use of a crossbow would reduce the number of deer that are wounded and never recovered, therefore be a positive change. I do not agree with forcing the 4 point rule on private land owners simply to produce bigger bucks. Managing for bigger antlers should be left to the individual land owner, not the Conservation Department that can be influenced by organizations that most individuals are not a part of. I believe that most hunters are not trophy hunter, but just think of taking a big antlered deer as a bonus when they do take one. I am for maintaining the timing of the November portion of rifle season. Reducing the season to 9 days could be a good thing if for the reason of increasing the number of deer and to provide the youth with better opportunities to hunt. I think we should maintain the timing and harvest limits for archery season as they are, as long as we maintain an acceptable population of deer. I think that the alternative method should be pushed back before Christmas or allow hunting through the 31st of December. That gives those of us that can't get away until after Christmas that one extra day. Respectfully submitted.

Like the proposed changes. Also shorten archery season.

I am only opposed to the crossbow usage. As a primitive bow hunter I think that we are getting too high tech with bow hunting. Only those hunters with certain disabilities should be able to use these crossbows. Please be sensitive to those of us that want to preserve what bow hunting should be.

Hello MDC, Just commenting about your proposed change to archery deer hunting-taking it from 2 to one 1 deer-using the methodology that hunters would be more selective in their harvesting thus reducing immature deer harvesting. This methodology is very flawed and certainly was not derived from anyone in the conservation business. The MO & bow hunters account for only 18% of the total MO deer harvest so this change will have little to NO effect on harvest %'s. The folks that bow hunt are the most selective group of hunters out there-ie me for example, I have hunted MO the past 3 years filling my tag only once although good have shot a buck on almost every day I hunted. The only thing that this change would reduce is hunters. If limiting out of state hunters and killing your fall economy is the goal, this would be a change. If encouraging out of state hunters to make MO their destination and injecting millions to the state economy is your goal strike this change down immediately.

Yes to all considerations.

Shortening the rifle season by a single day during the rut won't make a significant difference as I'm sure you already know. All our neighboring states have the main portion of their gun season after the rut. You want to increase the number of bucks that survive, then move rifle season to the first weekend in December. If you want to increase the number of antlerless deer, just go one season without harvesting antlerless deer. In my area an adult doe is more likely to have twins than a singleton. Which would allow for a rapid increase in the deer population. Based upon your proposed "changes" it seems to me that the MDC is worried more about money than the health of

the deer herd. I would love to hear from anyone at the MDC why moving the firearm season to the first weekend in December would be bad for the health of the herd.

Maintain current November portion of season, could reduce to 9 days. Crossbows only for over 65 and handicapped. Reduce antlerless season, particularly in counties with deer population declines due to high kill rates or disease. Leave archery as is with one antlered deer in early archery season and a second possible after the firearms season. Thank you, C.F.N.

I agree with shortening the November gun season. I still do not understand why the Commission feels it is so important to keep adding additional hunting days to the Youth Season as the season takes a hard toll on young bucks. All of the deer need a "resting" period between all of various hunting seasons. Lastly, I am strongly against crossbows for archery season. Archery season is for the hunter that truly enjoys the thrill of the hunt (not just the kill). Crossbows are not and should not be considered archery equipment. Use of crossbows will destroy the tradition of archery hunting. Take a look at the success of IL and IA deer hunting. Short gun seasons that do not interrupt the main portion of rut. That is why these states have the large population of trophy bucks.

Crossbows for the disabled and elderly only, no way they should be ok during archery season for everyone. Move gun season out of the rut, move it to December. Raise non resident fees, go to a draw and limit them. Nonresidents can hunt one season or another, not both. Fine with one less archery tag. Would be ok with one buck for all seasons if modern firearm season was in December and bucks older than 3 1/2 had more of a chance. Do something that will help the herd and Missouri residents.

To my knowledge, the crossbow is already an abused system. Several people I know are more than physically capable of pulling a bow back. Does a bad knee qualify you for a crossbow? There isn't any sport or challenge with a crossbow, that's what it's about a challenge. I feel the same way about a rifle. The black powder is more of a challenge you have one shot to make it count. Limiting the antlered deer to one will shorten the bow hunters season for a lot of hunters. I normally kill a buck prior to gun season. I trophy hunt the second part if I kill a doe that's a bonus but my season would end after the first buck if the regulations change.

Personally, I believe the proposed changes make sense for the most part. I also commend MDC for allowing comments on these changes and for being very transparent about this issue. My only concern is allowing crossbows to be used during archery season. I do not see this as an appropriate move. If this is the direction we are heading, why not just have one big season and you can use whatever you want. Allowing crossbows eliminates the purpose of an archery season. Thanks again for putting these changes out there for comment. M.

I am commenting on the proposed deer hunting regulations for 2016-17. I appreciate that the department has recognized the need to protect the numbers of the deer herd. It always seemed that something like this would have to happen once the total doe permits were increased several years ago in many of the management areas - it was inevitable. I have no problem with decreasing the number of days for the firearms season and decreasing the doe season - makes sense given what has happened to the size of the herd. Where I do disagree is moving the doe

season to early December - that will have a negative impact on the available deer to hunt during the traditional alternative season later in the month. My county does not have a doe season, comment is not being made for personal reasons. I also do not agree with changing the youth season to the Friday after Thanksgiving. By adding a third day and moving the January youth hunt after firearm season and prior to the alternative hunt period you are having a negative impact on that traditional season. This simply allows more doe and bucks who do not meet the antler restriction size which is in my county to be taken and thus decreasing the impact of growing bigger antlered deer and decreasing the size of the herd. Youth hunters still have the period prior to firearms season and can still have the period they currently have in January. I would suggest that you keep the youth seasons as it currently is since youths can hunt with their tags in all the seasons anyway.

We own a farm about five miles west of Fulton. My wife and I are retired, and until this year we had a small cow/calf operation. We have sold our herd and rent our hay and pasture ground to neighbors who have a large cow/calf herd. The neighbors also hunt deer on our ground which joins Mark Twain Forest ground and there are a lot of deer to hunt. Today I walked out our back door about noon and saw fourteen deer crossing the pasture less than an eighth mile from our house. They had come from a pasture that had about a hundred yearling steers in it and then ran through a pasture with cows that have new baby calves. I like to see deer as much as anyone, because I remember the days when you didn't see deer in this area. I understand the Conservation Commission is wanting to change the deer seasons to help increase the herd. I think we need to be very careful about how much we increase the numbers. We like to watch the wildlife out the window, but we are most interested in keeping this a cattle producing area.

Firearms Season Changes •Maintain the current timing of the November portion and reduce the length to 9-days-I disagree they should push opening day back after the Rut. The season is too early as it is now with a gun. Give the deer a chance to breed. This is the only state that I know that is starting gun season during the rut. •Expand the late youth portion to 3-days beginning the first Friday after Thanksgiving-disagree, keep it as it is today. •Reduce the length of the antlerless portion to 3-days and begin on the first Friday in December-Disagree, they need get rid of the Antlerless season. Most hunters will shoot a doe during the deer season, no need for a separate season. •Eliminate the urban zones portion, agree. Archery Season Changes •Allow crossbows as a legal method during the archery deer and turkey season-No, I do not agree. They should only allow for handicap people or set an age were older people can use one. The season is already set as the alternative method that people can use a crossbow for deer season. Cross bows are as close to a gun without any noise with shorter range. •Reduce the limit of antlered deer during the archery season to 1- No, I believe that people that are able to shoot a deer with a bow should be able to shoot another antlered deer later in the year during the alternative method. I believe that the state has this one correct. One reason Missouri is a great place to hunt. No other state has this. I also believe that the 4 point restriction is the best. One reason that this state has great bucks and the opportunity to shoot a older more mature deer makes it even harder for a bow hunter. They have to be able to shoot another buck that has gotten thru all of the hunting

seasons and has to be shot in December. They are very spooked and wary, very hard to shoot a buck with a bow. Conservation Area Regulations •Simplify conservation area regulations by limiting methods and use of firearms and archery antlerless permits- not sure what they are asking here? I would say that most people that have hunted in the state know the regulations and methods to take an animal. I would say they need to set up rules and let them stay for a few years without changing them so much. I would say that Missouri has done a great job managing the deer seasons and regulations. I grew up in buffalo NY and hunted there for my whole life. I watched as New York killed the deer season for hunting by making too many changes while reducing the deer population, they got to the point of allowing you to kill as many as 4 does and the ability to give your tags to others. This destroyed a lot of great hunting by everyone shooting any deer you would see buck or doe. The state does not have any antler point restrictions so people shot any deer seen. We saw that people started to lease up property or post land to stop all of the shooting and allow deer to grow and bucks to get bigger. The best hunting was only on private property as public property was even worse. Hunters declined as the days that I would go out to see a few deer during the day went to seeing a deer a week. Hunting property declines as anyone that really wanted to hunt would pay or was a family member. During this time I also use to go to Pennsylvania for deer hunting. I would hear stories of how great hunting this state. The number of deer you would see in a day. My first trip there was just as expected. I saw 63 does on opening day. The largest group had 24 does together at one time. You could not shoot does during the gun season, only during the doe season. I saw 7 bucks but no good shoots. There were 16 of us in our cabin that day. The hunting party took 8 bucks and 1 bear that day. The years went by as they changed the season from not being able to shoot a doe to being able to not only shoot a doe but you had to shoot a doe first before shooting a buck. My last opening day I hunted I saw no deer on opening day. Our hunting party dropped from 16 to 4. There were no deer taken and very few seen. The best changed made during that time was moving to 4 point restriction for bucks but they should have done this before they shot so many does. I left in 2005 moving to Chicago, best state to hunt deer. In 2005 hunted IL and Michigan for deer. First year in Michigan opening day saw 34 does and 6 bucks. 4 in our hunting party from IL. Wow great state. They began to get more liberal on allowing more and more doe tags. Each year we saw that the deer population was declining even though we did not shoot any does. Everyone around us were shooting any deer seen and they also have no antler restrictions. We saw the decline on opening day as the last time I hunted there in 2010 opening day I saw 4 does all day and no bucks, did shoot a deer in that state in 2 years due to recline in population. Our hunting party now only 2 people. Hunted in IL but mostly on public property. Worst state for hunting deer on public property as the number of hunter and people in the woods is too high, no deer. Moved to Kansas end 2006. Wow got the best states to hunt in the mid-west. KC, MO, NB and IO. I found property to hunt in MO in 2007 and started hunting deer with bow, gun and archery. In my first year out on opening day deer saw 31 does and 14 bucks 4 bucks that were mature. This has to be the best state that I have hunted in my life. I have been lucky to shoot at least 1 buck and some years 2 bucks per year that are scoring above 140. I see a lot of does during the year to enjoy the hunting. I have a lot of my friends that I bring out here to hunt the state due to the great hunting.

<p>I know when they are hear they will not only see deer but will have the opportunity to shoot a monster buck. No doubt that this is one of the best places to hunt and I would pay more as long as the hunting is good. I do have some concern as the hunting pressure and the doe tags become more liberal that the deer population will decline like I have seen in other states. I do not want the state to change the antler restrictions as this is a great way for bucks to have a chance to get big. I was impressed with the first time I hunted on how many smaller buck I did see. It shows that the future bucks are surviving and the future looks good. I'm ok with not shooting a buck as long as I get to see some during the day. I'm ok with paying the out of state price to shoot 2 bucks during the bow season and 1 buck with a gun. If they change this then they need to change the price for non-resident deer permits. Comment on myself. Hunting is my favorite sport that I do today. I hunt 65 plus days during the deer season bow, gun and alternative. I hunt deer, turkey, ducks and geese. I spend a lot of time in the woods, fields and marshes so I see the effects of the changes to the regulations and seasons. I also have taken my son out hunting as he is now turning 8 and looking forward to him hunting Missouri one day. Thanks, P.T.</p>
<p>Eliminate antlerless season.</p>
<p>I believe that all of the ideas are great ideas except for the following: shortening antlerless season so 3 days; shortening the main portion to 9 and lengthen youth season to 3 days. I think shortening doe season to 3 days is a bit extreme I could completely understand shortening it to 7. But I think a lot of hunters would lose the chance to go hunting due to work extra if it were only 3 days. I think the 12 day regular season is needed because of the same reason to my reasoning for not changing the doe season. I also think that shortening these seasons would lead to more poaching. I think that the 3 day youth season is not needed because how many kids of age 15 and under are not going to be at school and be able to be hunting on a Friday.</p>
<p>I am a lifelong resident & hunter. I donated significant time and energy to Design for Conservation to gain the 1/8 cent sales tax. The Mo Dept Conservation has the regs right on crossbows for more than what 60 years? DO NOT allow crossbows in hand held archery equipment season. Anyone with any in the field experience will tell you NO comparison between the two weapons. This is foolish and very disappointing coming from what I have considered the best managed Conservation Dept in the US. Also DO NOT reduce time afield or season lengths. Places stress on already stressed time constrains. Reduce bag limits to reduce harvest, period!</p>
<p>I applaud and agree with the proposed changes. Seasons must change with the herd as any proactive landowner knows, so I and many others believe these changes will help keep Missouri a prized white tail state. Thank you for the proactive leadership!</p>
<p>1) Reducing rifle season to 9 days – OK. 2) Expand youth portion - from personal experience, if you give too much to kids they won't appreciate it. 3) Reduce antlerless portion – OK.</p>
<p>4) Eliminate urban zones – OK. 5) Allow crossbows - ABSOLUTELY NOT, if you must, do it after rifle season. 6) Reduce archery buck harvest to one - if you want to reduce buck harvest than why increase it with crossbows? 7) Simplify conservation area regulations - OK</p>
<p>Things need to change in different areas.</p>

I have several comments. First, the cost for out of state hunting needs to be raised and lottery (just like I have to do in CO and WY). My other comments are generally concerning the drop in deer population and the reduction in number of deer harvested. 1) Have the start of archery season on Oct. 1, instead of Sept. 15, reducing the time to harvest deer. 2) NO CROSSBOWS except for handicap, archery season should have some challenge. 3) Yes, reduce the firearms season back to 9 days. 4) Keep second youth season after Christmas, so that kids can use the new guns, etc. 5) Keep archery 2 deer, except that 1 before firearms season and 1 after. 6) I really like black powder around the 15th of Dec. I started hunting in 1970 and have seen lots of changes. Archery season has a certain charm, and part of that charm is the challenge. By allowing crossbows, you are taking the "charm" of archery being a strong connection between the hunter and the bow, to basically a mechanical item that shoots bows. If someone really wants to kill deer with a crossbow, let them do it during rifle or black powder season.

I have no problem with shorting seasons and bag limits. I think they need to be to increase population. I would highly recommend the use of crossbow during archery season, I find it increasingly harder to pull and hold a bow. But I also use a crossbow for firearm season. But I am not out just to kill a deer. I'm presently on email list.

These proposed changes are not going to do much, if anything far as harvest #'s go. The kids extra time is great, especially before January. I'd prefer to see a regular rifle season around thanksgiving and let the kids hunt 3 days during peak rut. Mature bucks are on lock down then and having rifles during peak rut as it is now leaves more immature bucks running around to get shot while mature bucks are only moving in-between does and are locked down most of the time in the middle of rifle, November 15th.

Here in Texas county we have a very healthy and abundance of deer, however, I do agree with the proposed new regulations. It's my belief that crossbow hunting should be allowed during archery and back powder portions of deer season and perhaps even in the firearms portion on private lands.

Overall I appreciate what the MDC is doing to improve the quality of our deer hunting. As we look at the trophy quality and deer numbers of states like our friend Iowa to the north I think the MDC a realizes the need for some changes, especially to rifle season dates so they are not in the middle of the rut where trophy bucks are most vulnerable. I would like to see the high powered rifles go away and go to shotgun only. Since I am a bowhunter only, I oppose taking the limit from 2 bucks down to one for an archery hunter. If you tag a buck seep 15 essentially the season is over and you lose the ability to hunt late season archery. However, I do think that it would be a good idea to limit an archery hunter or any hunter to 2 bucks total, as the rules are now a hunter could theoretically take a buck early bow, a buck rifle/muzzle loader and a buck late archery. I think it should be limited to 2 bucks total regardless of the season the buck is harvested in (early archery, rifle, muzzle-loader or late archery). I appreciate the MDC allowing us to voice our opinions and consider the public viewpoint as they look at making changes

I do not really favor shortening the firearms season. I do support moving the youth season to the Friday after Thanksgiving. I do support reducing the antlerless firearms season. Do away with

the urban portion. I support reducing the number of antlered deer during archery season for 2 to 1. I do not believe in allowing crossbows during the archery season it is not the same thing, and I believe that it would have a negative impact on the buck population. I support simplifying the conservation area regulations and would like to see more "archery only" areas. In addition I would like to see the A.P.R. go statewide. It has had a great impact in my area. Thank you.

No on crossbows. Just like using a gun. I drive 30 miles each way to work and see multiple deer that have been hit on the highway daily. Do we really need a larger population?

I am against allowing crossbows for all hunters. I agree they should be allowed to those that are medically unable to use other archery equipment. I am also OK with allowing youth under 16 years hunting with an adult to get youth in the woods. I am also OK with allowing seniors over 65 to hunt with crossbows. I am against reducing antlered deer permits to one. This would discourage me from hunting after I harvested a antlered deer. If you want to increase the buck numbers, MOVE THE FIREARMS SEASON TO LATE NOVEMBER/DECEMBER. Missouri would become the elite state to hunt whitetails if firearms season were moved.

To whom it may concern, The youth season is a joke! Mom, Dad, or Grandpa take a kid out to hunt & the kid gets their picture in the paper for killing a big deer. When the kids 6-10 can't even hold up a deer rifle. We know who really shot the deer! Change the youth season to a season for seniors. Let Dad or Grandpa take the kids during regular gun season. Then see how many pictures are in the paper! We old timers go out & freeze when the deer have all been spooked off by youth season hunters. Also, making the season shorter doesn't help us old guys.

My husband and I are from out of state and specifically choose to hunt in Missouri for the 2 archery tags that are included in the license price. Also, we believe the point restriction helps to increase the average age of bucks harvested.

I would like to make it to the meeting but have class that night. I think all of the changes sound great except for allowing crossbows I'm archery without a dr. note. I wish along with most other people I talk to that you would increase the area of the point restrictions. Thanks for your time.

I'm in favor of all the proposed changes except for the crossbow as being a legal hunting method for archery. I think if you want to introduce crossbow hunting into the state it should have its own season and not be open from the beginning to end of the traditional archery season.

I have been deer hunting since 1964 with bow and gun. I have seen the deer populations increase dramatically and now they seem to be down in the area I hunt in southern Cole County. Part of the problem is the neighbors let so many people hunt and kill deer that the population appears to be down. I think the 4 point antler rule is really working as I have seen many more bigger bucks since it began in Cole County. I agree with all the proposed deer rule changes for 2016-17 and I propose to add three additional hunting rules as follows: (1) Allow crossbows during the Spring Firearm Turkey Season - this would provide quite the challenge and increase opportunities for sportsmen. (2) Reduce the number of archery antlerless permits in all areas of the state where deer populations are down below carrying capacity of the habitat. (3) In areas where there are too many deer, especially does, I think a hunter should be required to take a doe before he can get a permit for a buck. This would apply to archery as well as firearms. I especially think that archers

should only be allowed to take 1 buck (antlered deer) during the whole archery season. I think the MDC has done an excellent job taking care of the deer herd in Missouri.

•Maintain the current timing of the November portion and keep the 11 days - The last 2 days are nice when the weather or hunting hasn't been so nice. •Actually, I see no need to have a separate late youth season. No, I am not in favor of expanding the late youth portion to 3-days beginning the first Friday after Thanksgiving. •Reduce the length of the antlerless portion to 3-days and begin on the first Friday in December - It doesn't matter to me. •Although I have never hunting in urban zones, there may be some areas worthwhile to keep. Eliminate the urban zones portion. •No, crossbows should only be allowed for disability hunters. Today's archery bows and equipment should be more than enough for someone to take up the sport of archery. Allow crossbows as a legal method during the archery deer and turkey season. •No, I see no reason to reduce the limit on antlered deer when there is a 4 point regulation already in place. Reduce the limit of antlered deer during the archery season to 1. •What? This topic is rather difficult to understand, I see nothing wrong with the way each conservation area sets its regulations. Whoever dreamed up this simple topic should make it clearer what exactly it is supposed to do. I don't understand it. Simplify conservation area regulations by limiting methods and use of firearms and archery antlerless permits. As to non-resident deer permit, I'm not sure, but I've always heard non-resident deer license in surrounding states were higher. Perhaps the fees could be the same as the non-resident's state.

Every season I see my Facebook feeds filled with deer that have been harvested. I receive text messages of fresh harvests from my friends. Whenever we have get-togethers, we talk about our biggest takes, game cam pictures, where will set up our deer camp, our new rifles or bows, and other related conversation. It gets exciting when fall begins. Here in Southeast Missouri, hunting is engrained in our culture. We don't have to take a long drive to get to nowhere, and see the natural resources that Missouri has to offer. A short drive will take us to a the Current, Black, or St. Francis Rivers where we can fish. There are many locations where we can set up a stand and prepare for the rut. Spring allows my friends and I to take our annual float trip on one of the above rivers and see a turkey, catch some smallmouth bass, and camp under the brisk stars on the river bank. Missouri has all that I want in the outdoors, aside from large, snow-covered mountains, and larger game such as elk. Having not been a hunter for very long at all, I have very little knowledge about tracking game, how to call, where to place decoys, etc. I do, however, have the foresight to know that in a matter of years, we could decimate anything and everything that Missouri has to offer us. Overzealous hunters, poachers taking out the crop for next season, and individuals decrying freedom from government all have one thing in common: selfishness. These individuals do not have the foresight to see that in their lifetime, the ability of Missouri to create stable populations could end, and all of us would feel the detrimental effects. I believe that the shorter firearms portion to increase populations is acceptable, to allow many more to participate and to continue to participate. I wholeheartedly concur with increasing youth seasons to give young children, my son and twin daughters included, more time in the woods to harvest their own game. Having just purchased a compound bow from Rednecks, Racks, and

Reels, I concur with the use of crossbows during archery season. It shoots a sharp projectile via a string; makes sense. Reducing antlered deer taken to 1 does no hindrance to me. I let a doe and her two fawns walk past this past, and first season, to allow them the chance to grow into the next season. I felt pride in my decision, that I was doing my part to conserve our resources. Reducing the take to 1 forces us to make better decisions on what we would like to pursue, which benefits both us and deer. Regulations are already pretty simplistic. However, the guide to the seasons could be more informative and intuitive. The different seasons, with the different restrictions was confusing for a new hunter. I was afraid to be in the wrong even after consulting with seasoned friends and reviewing the document a number of times.

I read about your proposed changes in the Bolivar Herald and most were ok, but I feel I have to comment on the crossbow change proposed. I can't believe this is even being considered. I've archery hunted since I was 13. It takes patients, skill and practice to be successful. Although a crossbow isn't a firearm it certainly makes it easier, too easy maybe. Most bow hunters are pretty dedicated to their sport and make an effort to practice. Legalizing crossbows would fill the woods with armchair hunters who fire 2 bolts at a target and think themselves ready, much like a lot of firearm hunters. It was stated that the bag limit of one antlered deer for archery would increase the buck population. I have no problem with that, but it seems the gain would be cancelled out by the influx of crossbow hunters. If they want, they have firearms season and alternative season to use them. I agree that older hunters (at least over 65) should be able to use them, but youth? Both my sons went bow hunting when they had the ability to pull back and accurately shoot a bow with enough force for a humane kill on a deer and that fact didn't affect their love of the sport or discourage them. Anyone younger than that probably has no business with a crossbow anyway. I'm sure a majority of actual bow hunters will be against this proposal, but I'm also sure non bow hunters will jump at it as a chance they think is a way to get a deer with little or no effort. D.R.

I vote no crossGUNS during regular archery seasons. Leave the crossbows as they are. And why cut bowhunters down to one any deer tag when so few fill both tags? Makes no sense at all.

I believe you are headed in the right direction. I support the changes.

I am OK with reducing rifle season to 9 days. I am OK with changing the youth season to 3 days and begin the first Friday after Thanksgiving. I am OK with reducing the length of antlerless season to 3 days and begin the first Friday in December. I am OK with elimination of the urban season. I am NOT OK with crossbows during archery season, leave them in rifle season. I am NOT OK with changing the limit to 1 antlered deer during archery season. Overall, I am very pleased with The Department of Conservation deer management. I do however feel we have been killing too many antlerless (does) and this has affected our deer population, along with the drought and EHD.

I think what you proposed is great. The crossbow change would get a lot more youth and elderly out during archery season my dad is in his 70s and had to quit archery hunting because he could not pull a bow back anymore.

I agree some changes should be made, as our deer population is not what is used to be. I think eliminating the urban portions, however, will prove counterproductive. Deer populations in these areas are still too high, from the numbers I've seen. I also think adding crossbows to the regular archery season will hurt our deer population, as opposed to helping the population. I think we should leave crossbows where they are designated. I think things that would help the deer population would include making non-residents draw for tags or certain tags, moving/shortening regular firearms season as proposed, but if you're going to limit a number of archery tags, limit the number of antlerless tags to a certain amount. Buck harvests do not do anything to the deer population from what studies I've read. Mature doe harvests are what affects deer populations. I'm torn on the proposed conservation area changes. I love to bow hunt, but I'm not in love with changing all areas to archery only and do NOT like not being able to use antlerless tags. If an area is restricted to being able to use antlerless tags, I just find somewhere else to go. Thank you for please considering my cares on these IMPORTANT matters that I DEEPLY care about. Thank you for all you do, you guys are the best in the nation in my experiences with

I am not in favor of shortening the firearms season. I am not in favor of youth season being extended to three days. No opinion on antlerless season. Eliminating urban zones I am ok with. I am in favor of crossbows I already have a permit for the use of a crossbow. I am not in favor of limiting archery buck harvest to just one buck. I and my household are not in favor of the antler restriction rule. We are meat hunters and do not trophy hunt. In Wright county I would be in favor of harsh punishment for road hunting and spotlighting. There is a few in this county who video spotlighting for a money pot and waste the deer that they kill! NO ONE BENEFITS FROM THIS. Maybe the people who find this waste of this resource of meat. Should shoot a few spot lighters trucks since our laws do not seem to punish these people when caught enough to stop them from this waste. No I will not shoot someone's truck however I sure feel like it. Some of these people are neighbors to our local game warden and seem to keep tabs on him and his where about.

Season is so short now it's a joke. Youth season change good. Crossbow limited to under 16 women and senior citizens better. From what I hear around the local coffee shop if you limit deer numbers most of the locals will take them anyway. We are confused by you saying numbers are down yet make changes to insure more deer will be killed. State legislators are trying to take over MDC right now you don't need to be doing things to make people think you are not using good judgment, like shortening season.

Don't want crossbows in archery season. Rather see two deer limit then restriction the bowhunters.

I feel if MDC is wanting to increase the number of deer they should move the rifle season until after the rut into colder weather and shorting doesn't hurt. I also think by implying the 4 point rule everywhere is a great start. When it comes to archery hunting, I feel if you cut back to one buck you will have a huge increase in bucks getting shot and not tagged or someone harvest a buck first of season then goes on a doe killing spree. If crossbow hunting is allowed it should be

for youth, elderly and disabled people. Its supposed to be a challenge, that's the fun in it. Thanks for your time, S.S.

Totally opposed to crossbows in archery seasons. I do not see the supposed recruitment and retention of hunters as proposed. I think a lot of crossbows would be crossover hunters from rifle hunters who don't want to learn to bowhunt. I think the 3 day antlerless season is an improvement. The Late season antlerless results resulted in bucks without antlers being killed. A 1 buck by archery and 1 buck by gun would be a good decision.

I really think the Youth season after Thanksgiving will be super for the kids due to the fact they will have time off with family which is who they hunt with. I don't understand limiting archers to one antlered deer now, but if so why don't we just legalize the use of crossbows. At what age can you hunt with a crossbow? Where will what use to be muzzleloading season fall into place? It should be before antlerless season. Maybe have antlerless season first before the rut. Last but not least, out of state hunters. I went to Deer Ridge CA last year where I encountered 13 guys from Mississippi scouting during the Youth Hunt, for the archery hunt the week before firearms season. Point being is they are on Missouri residents. They are hunting ground where that is all some us have. Not all of us have hunting leases. If they want to hunt out of state keep them on private not public owned property. A large portion do not have the hunting knowledge to realize hunter ethic. Another subject if a individuals state does not allow hunting on Sunday, their residents should not be allowed to hunt out of state on Sunday in another state. I understand what I say doesn't promote revenue, but we have a very well-funded department and a large number of devoted sportsmen willing and wanting to keep the few areas we have to use available to Missouri residents. The individuals that bought and support the land we are discussing.

I am a bow hunter and I am opposed to the use of cross bows during the archery season; excluding hunters who are physically unable to shoot a compound bow. The sport of archery season would no longer exist if everyone was allowed to shoot with a cross bow.

I am a bow hunter and I am opposed to the use of cross bows during the archery season except for hunters who are physically unable to shoot a compound bow.

I am opposed to reducing the number of days for the firearm season. Also opposed to restricting the amount of antlered deer during the archery season. I am in full agreement for allowing crossbows during archery season.

I would like to keep the firearms season at 11 days because if you have something come up in your personal life, such as sickness or death to a family member, you could miss the whole season. I would like to see the crossbow be made available to all hunters for deer season. I am 52 years old and a compound bow is difficult at best for me. Thank you.

I support a shortened 9 day firearm season. I do not support a 3-day youth season in November. Two points: Youth season in November is only an extension of the firearm season when deer should be allowed to normalize feeding after the rifle season and put on weight prior to winter. The youth season is being abused by adult hunters, it's only an extension of the regular rifle season.

1) Beef up punishments for poachers in a BIG way. Please stop punishing those who abide the law with more restrictions. Punish the poachers and spotlighters please. 2). 1 by crossbow, 1 crossbow, 1 compound, 2 compound. Or I'd like to trade my firearms tag for an extra compound bow buck tag if you are cutting one out. That's not right. 3). Antler restrictions state wide please

I completely disagree with allowing archery hunters to use crossbows. It is only an excuse because people get lazy. I am 54 and am an active bow hunter. When and if I can no longer shoot my bow in an ethical manner, I might go to the doctor and try to acquire a medical reason to use a crossbow. If you allow crossbows, I strongly believe that you are going to increase the kill of the herd. Today's bow provide for an 80 percent drop-off so I am a bit confused about some of your data. The data points to one thing, as some Americans age, they get out of shape and lazy. This should not be an excuse to allow them to use a crossbow. I agree with the change to only kill one buck with a bow. Honestly, how much meat can a family eat. And if you need more meat, kill a doe or two. Related to the gun changes, I agree with all of them.

I have two (2) comments. 1: I am not at all in favor of having the Youth season as it is, what it in reality does in most cases is allows some Dad or Uncle to take any 3 to 11 year old kid out with him and get first shot at the nicest bucks, it teaches the kids to be poachers in reality while Dad takes bragging rights for the kill. 2. The crossbow is not archery, never has been and never will be in the mind of any person who hunts with a bow and arrows, it is only a way to let the lazy half hunter, poaching minded a-holes harvest deer without actually hunting. I have met some of them in the woods with target points on their arrows during deer hunting season, That's what it really is.

I have hunted Missouri deer for the past 2 years during the November firearms hunt (and loved it). I understand and agree with the changes MDC is proposing. However, as a non-resident hunter I currently pay approximately \$20/day to hunt during the November season. If/when these changes become effective I would expect the price of a non-resident deer permit to decrease by approximately \$40 to reflect the decrease in days allowed for the hunt.

1. 9 days is fine for rifle season as long as it includes two weekends. Most people can only hunt weekends. 2. The youth portion to 3 days is fine, but I think it may be too cold for younger people to fully enjoy. Perhaps keep in early October. 3. Reducing the antlerless portion to three days is fine, but should be the three days after thanksgiving, where most people have that Friday off anyway. 4. Fine with eliminating urban zone portion. Nowhere to hunt anyway. 5. YES PLEASE ALLOW CROSSBOWS. Archery hunting is very difficult with low harvest rates per hunt as-is. I only have a few days to archery hunt per year and the use of a crossbow would greatly help my chances as I hunt a lot of areas with few trees to climb on. Crossbows make ground hunting much easier. 6. I'm not decided on reducing the antlered harvest to one buck for bow season. I think the overall herd figures would likely be better handled by doe reduction.

All for changing youth season to earlier date. Would also agree with youth under 12 yrs, crossbow during bow season because of physical strength issues required to draw a bow, Proposal to allow all hunters crossbow during "BOW SEASON" is a TERRIBLE idea! Crossbow is not a remotely primitive weapon! The reason I bowhunt is because the hunt is more

difficult.

Mo. Is the only state I know of that already gives the "RUT" to rifle hunters, decreasing odds of success for bowhunters immensely for quality bucks. The dept. already allows crossbow for physically impaired during bow season. Crossbows 1. 100 yd. shooting range. 2. scopes for sights 3. Pre -drawn string. Sounds exactly like "black-powder " hunting to me? Bows 1. 50 yd. . Shooting range if the hunter practices his shots all year. Most bow hunters shoot under 40 yds. Comfortably. 2. No scope! Actual skill involved with target acquisition. 3. Must draw bow when animal is close! Requiring movement! Hence - skill reading animal awareness to surroundings! Of course the dept. is going to get overwhelming response in favor of crossbow being legal. This is because, yes I will say it, rifle hunters are LAZY! This will allow hunters that do not put in the time off-season practicing their hunting skills to get an "easy-kill" all they have to do is buy a crossbow, then sight it in the day before season start. Exactly like black powder! I request 4- point restrictions be implemented into Jasper county also, low quality bucks.

I think it is a bad idea to reduce the regular Firearms Deer season to only 9 days. Last year was a great example of why we need the extra days. The weather was bitter cold and many could not hunt the first weekend. I would never want to change the timing of Firearm Season. I think taking hunting away from regular deer season and then expanding hunting season for "kids" or should I say "Dads" is a bad idea. So I am against adding anymore days to the "YOUTH SEASON". I'm fine with reducing the antlerless portion to a 3 day weekend. However, think the first weekend of December is a bad date. January would be the best time for this. I would ask that you consider combining the "YOUTH Antlerless Season" with the "Adult Antlerless Season" and put it in January. I don't know enough about the Urban Zones to have an opinion. I'm fine with allowing crossbows during archery deer season. However, DO NOT reduce the limit of antlered deer to only 1. I can't believe that someone in your office thinks somehow this would be a good idea. Why don't you publish how many archery hunters shoot multiple bucks. What's the number? I like the idea that if I get lucky and kill a buck during the first part of the season that if I continue to hunt for a doe later in the season and a big buck walks out I could still kill that animal.

I do feel that most of the regulation changes are needed and are considerably favorable. I myself am not an archery hunter but I feel that crossbows should not be allowed during archery season. It stated that it would allow younger and older individuals to archery hunt, this could be accomplished by placing age limits on those who use a crossbow. I am just concerned that allowing this method may possibly produce adverse results in the archery portion of the deer harvest.

I think the 9 day limit is a good idea. We need to remove the doe only season for a few years. Having the youth hunt during the holiday is good, I think there are many older hunters that take advantage of the "youth hunt" early dates to hunt the larger bucks that are in rut prior to all of us that have paid and hunted for years when there were not many deer around to hunt. I say add the crossbow, change the antlered bucks to a total of one for bow hunting. Reduce the permits on conservation land for special hunts. Many private land owners rely on the conservation land to

hold and protect the heard for overkill numbers in an area. Keep the antler point totals as they are. Greatly reduce the number of any deer permits. People are just shooting to kill, not consume.

I am all for doing whatever is necessary to protect/and increase our deer population. However, I am not in favor in increasing the number of days for youth season while drastically cutting my ability to hunt. Youth have their weekend all to their self and they can hunt during the open season. Please, keep the youth season as is and do not add days to the youth season.

Reduce number of antlerless deer taken per hunter to just one. Reduce number of youth seasons to one. Many hunters never see deer. Some will never harvest a deer because the numbers have been greatly reduced in certain areas of the state by disease and over harvesting of doe.

Considers himself a sportsman. Does not support changes to allow crossbows as an approved method during archery season. Will kill more deer during archery season and detracts from traditional archery season. Reduce archery season by cutting the 1st 15 and last 15 days. Supports other changes.

I do think you folks have done a great job with your info on what has to be done to protect our deer hunts to insure ongoing future hunting. I really don't see the declines in my area because I have my own place that is farmed by a neighbor, so with the corn and beans we supply them with, we keep a good supply of deer. I'm really glad that we may get to choose a crossbow for bow season. Wish it was this year, although, I'm not sure I want spend the money as long as I can pull my bow back. I can't shoot a cam compound, but I've had a round wheel compound for years. I had a lot of problems last year with it because heart surgery left my chest extremely sore so it was only the last of the season I was able to pull it back without grunting loud enough to scare the deer before I released it. But, I always felt that if anyone could just go to a doctor and get a slip, whether they really needed it or not, that we should all have the same advantage. I do wish there was an exception on the 4 point rule for archery, but I understand what you are doing with it and have seen the results on my own farm in the last couple of years, with larger bucks. I have had to pass on some really large body bucks, with crappy 6 point racks in the last couple years and it's kinda disappointing to hunt that hard with a bow and watch them stay off your table. I love to hunt and I love the meat. I don't believe in mounting deer that I ambushed in his back yard to eat. If I want to remember what they look like I just go hunting again. The gun hunt gives me the advantage to really get a deer to make sure my freezer has company. I have a very terrible record on bow hunting, but I have a lot of fun and some pretty cool memories. I believe strongly in the job you folks do, so I'm more than willing to agree with your proposals to insure we keep our deer hunting. Just getting older and looking for all the advantages that can help me be successful bow hunting. Thanks for your time and hard work. J.V.C.

I have been in contact with Senator Gary Romine concerning your meeting sites. Why is it that you never seem to actually come to the place where the changes will affect? You see, we in Southeast Missouri, are in prime hunting and fishing areas. Yet you stage your meetings in places that are difficult for some of us to get to. Why do you leave us out? We have excellent meeting places in Farmington, MO; then there is the space available at Mineral Area College. For me, I would have to go all the way to St. Louis or possibly Cape Girardeau. How about

scheduling some meetings in the smaller, rural areas where the people from St. Louis and Cape Girardeau come to fish and hunt. We need a voice in all of this, not just them. W.R.M.

I am an archery and rifle deer hunter and I usually take 2-3 deer per season. I support the move to allow crossbows as a legal method to take deer and turkey, as I feel that it would be a strong hunter recruitment and retention tool. The majority of these regulation changes sound great! Keep up the good work!

The everyone gets an any deer tag rule needs to be changed, limit any deer tags to the youth hunts and places with an over population. Do more to get rid of the wild hogs. Such as more traps, make it illegal to hunt them with dogs, hunting with dogs only causes them to spread farther from where they are, use more helicopters, and basically follow what the state of Nebraska does to reduce their numbers. Lower the price of a resident tag, and raise the cost of a non resident tag, hunters are competing for a place to hunt, we need to reduce the number of out of state hunters. I feel like if we had check stations the conservation dept, could interact with the hunters better, I talked to Jason Sumners right after deer season 2013 and he led me to believe I was the only hunter in the state that complained of a dwindling deer population, if we had check stations maybe more complaints would have been heard. I'm all about using a crossbow, they are harder to use, as far as walking or stalking a deer, and for the youth it is a def. win!

Reduce the length of the antlerless portion to 3-days and begin on the first Friday in December. DO NOT allow crossbows as a legal method during the archery deer and turkey season.

Please do this to help our deer populations and the quality of male deer. Deer tags in other states are higher than ours. Wyoming is \$320. Raise the price to fund trapping deer in urban areas where they are a problem and releasing in areas where public land is being hunted? I think you should also enact the antler point restriction to all counties but give the youth hunters a break on it during youth season.

I would be in favor of shortening the firearm season to 9 days. I also think it needs to be moved back to the first week of December. I think expanding the youth season and making it earlier and reducing the length of the doe season are good moves. I think it would be a positive step to allow crossbows and reducing the archery limit to one is a good first step. A better solution to declining numbers of mature bucks would be to limit it to one antlered deer per year no matter what method. Thank You.

Agree with shortening the November portion to 9 days. Leave the 2nd youth around the 1st weekend in January. Reduce the length of the antlerless portion to 3-days and begin on the first Friday in December. Yes, allow crossbows as a legal method during the archery deer and turkey season. Reduce the limit of antlered deer during the archery season to 1. Need to come up with a better for hunting & fishing permits. I hunt just about everything and it's difficult to carry around 15 different permits. Its 2015 maybe a card loaded with what has been purchased and agents can scan from there phone? Thank you for what you do. C.

Crossbow should not be for everyone.

The entire state needs to be 4 pt rule. It is too easy for people to call in and say they killed there buck where there is no 4 pt rule. This rule has also helped to increase the number of bucks plus the size also. The shortening of the season by two days will be minimal on the population, most people have quit hunting by the last weekend. If anything the season needs to be moved back a week to take pressure off the bucks. The one buck rule during bow season is also a good idea.

I like the proposed rule changes. I support a shorter firearms season, 9 days. I support the use of crossbows during firearms season, and the 1 buck archery limit. These are good regulations. I don't care about antlerless season, and moving the late youth season.

No on crossbows during archery season! You're reducing the amount of antlered deer that can be taken during that time to compensate for the use of crossbows. It's BS as anyone can get a doctor to sign off on the need to use a crossbow. I assume that still will necessary or will it not? Please get that information out.

I like most of the changes but there are a few I disagree. Making the seasons shorter and reducing the number of antler deer that can be taken will help improve the amount of deer in Missouri. That will either make hunter more selective of what antler deer to shoot or most will be shooting at the first deer to walk within range of them. I do not think you should allow anyone to use a crossbow. Crossbows are a lot faster and also extremely accurate. In my opinion that would just be like having an extra shotgun season. That will make harvesting a deer during the archery season a lot easier. I feel the reason most hunter use a compound bow is because they like the challenge and the thrill of the hunt. Crossbows will make it less of a challenge since hunters would be capable of taking shots farther away. Would hunters on managed bow hunts have to wear orange because of what cross bows can do? Also the urban portion should not be eliminated. There are many residents that worry about the deer in their neighborhoods and surrounding properties. Are the deer causing much damage in those areas where there is no hunting presence? They will continue to grow and reproduce causing damages to property and vehicles.

Going to 1 archery buck will not make a big impact. Stats that I have seen shows that a small percentage of nonresidents use a second buck. Most deer are killed with modern guns and muzzleloader. You may want to consider selling a second archery buck tag after you fill first tag. That would be a win win. More money for state and a second buck for the few that needs it. Thanks for letting me comment

Ideas sound very well thought out and well planned. Applicants from another state should be charged their state's rate when applying for tags in Missouri, and Missouri applicants should be charged Missouri rates when applying for tags in another state for non-resident tags.

Please do not shorten the hunting season. In our part of southeast Missouri, we see deer almost daily on HWY OO and HWY 34. Not just 1 or 2, sometimes several at a time. Have had deer jump up from roadside ditches into cars. Have hit deer several times throughout the years. Not fun at all. We have to pay when this happens and there are definitely too any deer in this area. Please lengthen not shorten. Thanks for your consideration on this issue. H.

I am for it.
I don't like shortening regular firearm season. I don't have enough time to hunt as it is. If the season gets shorter I just as well not purchase any tags. I would say eliminate the antlerless season for one year and everything should be well on their way back to good numbers.
I lived in the state of Missouri for well over 40 years. I paid taxes and retired from Columbia with over 25 years of service. I have hunted on the same 160 acres of farm in northern MO for well over 30 years. I purchased the farm in 2004 and received free hunting permits for the land. In 2005 I had to move to Shawnee and now have a business office in KCMO and in Shawnee Kansas. I still pay taxes and purchase products in MO for my work and home. I was able to purchase my hunting permits in MO as a land owner for half price since my actual house is in Kansas on the border of MO. Last few years MO decided to charge me full price for my hunting permits on my land in MO. I am mad as hell, I still buy and shop and work in MO pay taxes to both state. MDC receives money on sale taxes, I am here to say I am one of the land owners who still shops in MO stores. In addition products I buy for the farm are purchased near the city my farm is located Brookfield MO. One size fits all I believe is an over reach to punish land owners who have a home on the border of the state. I practice sound wildlife management for the state but get penalized for being one land owner who happens to own land in MO but lives in Kansas. I think it would be fair for land owners like myself who live on the border of state and own more (80) then the 5 or 10 acres which I am sure is a high percentage of the 10 thousand out of state land owners really own should get at least the half off of out of state permits. I guess I am really pissed since I still pay taxes (lot) when I shop in MO, and have an office in Mo for my business, employee's from MO who also shop in MO, and own 80 acres in MO and have to pay for out of state prices for permits. This regulation needs to be revisited, I am sure there are other land owners who would fit the bill as I described. I am pissed that other land owners in MO or hunters feel the need to justify the high cost of out of state lic fees to land owners in another state because they feel like they are getting screwed for out of state tags. That is just wrong and unfair to land owners like me.
Youth season shouldn't be split, make it five straight days in either September or October. Do not allow crossbows in archery season. Move firearms season to begin the weekend after thanksgiving. Make it one antlered deer per year period. Nonresidents should have to draw for tags in specific zones like I do in Iowa and Kansas.
Crossbows is not archery and should not be allowed during bow season. As for firearms season if you want to manage Missouri deer move firearms season to December out of the rut like Iowa, Kansas, etc.
I think there should be more emphasis on youth hunting opportunities. Crossbows would be a great way to get younger hunters in the bow woods. One archery buck is a great idea. Moving the doe season to a time before the rut would make for more rutting activity and the rutting would not be wasted on does that end up being harvested. I believe the firearms season should be 9 days and moved back until after Thanksgiving. TOO MANY MATURE BUCKS ARE HARVESTED BECAUSE OF RUTTING ACTIVITY! Let archery hunters hunt the rut without the interruption

of all the firearms hunters. Missouri has the genetic potential to produce the largest whitetail deer in the world if our seasons were structured properly.

Crossbows should only be allowed during the rifle season not during the bow season.

I am against the crossbow being legal.

I am all in favor of shortening the rifle season by 2 days. However, as a very dedicated bow hunter I DO NOT agree with opening archery season up to crossbow hunting. Totally takes away from a sport that I am very passionate about. With today's technology, much as with the modern muzzleloader, I might as well have a high power rifle in my hand as a crossbow. The art of patience, practice, and timing ends if we allow the use of a crossbow shooting 450fps. I also do not agree with taking a buck tag away from the dedicated bow hunter. Many of us are more than happy to eat a rifle tag with the hopes of conquering a trophy buck with archery tackle. If the goal is to in fact rebound Missouri's deer herd than why allow crossbows that anyone and everyone can pull a trigger on. Plus, I feel it opens up more threat of road hunting in high traffic areas. I know and feel everyone has a right to their/our own beliefs, but this will greatly hurt the sport of bowhunting.

Move rifle season to the first full week or the first weekend of December, if you are trying to boost the deer herd. At the same time watch our mature buck count sky rocket.

I hope that all the new changes go into effect. I believe that it will really improve the herd. Also, I have been using a crossbow for the last 8 seasons and really enjoy it.

I do not think these changes will have any positive results as far as Missouri becoming a trophy buck state or will this help any trophy hunter in Missouri and we are the individuals that are investing in the future of whitetails here. We need to have the two buck tags in bow season to allow us to harvest a cull or management buck. I also think we need to change the rifle season to slug or muzzleloader. If we are worried about the deer numbers being too low then maybe we should have seen this coming when the MDC was letting people harvest as many doe as they wanted to pay for without considering the chance for a major disease (EHD) reducing the numbers. We need to quite having unlimited doe harvest across the board not just rifle season. I am an avid trophy hunter and hunt a lot of whitetails in southern Iowa and have hunted Kansas these states know how to grow monster whitetails and make it very profitable for the state have we looked into coping their protocol? If not, I think we should. I want to see Missouri become the trophy state that we have the potential to become. Thanks, T. U.

Archery Season Changes •Allow crossbows as a legal method during the archery deer and turkey season - I disagree with using a crossbow during bow season because it allows more opportunities for poaching. I see some questionable activities during hunting and this would allow people that are lazy to harvest more deer illegally. •Reduce the limit of antlered deer during the archery season to 1 - I disagree with this because you have to get close to a buck to be able to get a good shot. I see a lot of bucks when I hunt.

Dislikes people using landowner tags on hunting game that they do not live on. Wants more antler pt restrictions.

Is a hunter and sportsman. Supports reciprocal deer and turkey permit pricing for nonresidents. Does not support including crossbows as an approved method for use during archery season. Will give hunters a false sense of security and they will attempt to make shots that will only injure the deer. No problem with shortening seasons. Approves reduction in antlered deer bag limit for archery season. Adding crossbows and reducing bag limit is contradictory.

I am all for the deer hunting changes we have the best biologist and deer experts in the U.S. I have full faith in this states conservation department, the only thing I do not agree with is the out of state tag cost for a person who owns hunting property in our state. I personally feel that if someone lives out of state but owns hunting property in our state they should not have to pay for their hunting tags

Shortening the regular firearms season makes sense for deer management, but many hunters have to work weekends, and having weekdays to hunt is their only option. This is especially true for younger hunters who don't have the seniority on their jobs to get time off. Regarding the use of crossbows during archery season, this may result in more accidents. When you physically draw and hold a bow, you are aware the any error could result in a discharge of the arrow. With a crossbow doing the work of holding at full draw for you, the physical reminder is not there. We hunters are human. Mistakes will happen. I personally have witnessed accidental discharges from firearms and crossbows more frequently than from conventional archery equipment. I would be less inclined to bowhunt the more popular public areas if crossbows are allowed.

I would like to see crossbows allowed during the regulated archery season. Thank you

I'm all for maintain the current timing of the November portion and reduce the length to 9-days. I'm fine with expanding the late youth portion to 3-days beginning the first Friday after Thanksgiving. I think reducing the length of the antlerless portion to 3-days and begin on the first Friday in December would be a good thing. I would love to see crossbows be allowed as a legal method during the archery deer and turkey season. I'm ok with reducing the limit of antlered deer during the archery season to 1.

I feel archery season should not allow crossbow hunting. I feel this will increase the pressure on deer greatly due to adding a lot of people who would never consider archery hunting without the ease of a crossbow. I also feel that with the increase in the number of increased hunters in the woods it could affect a deer's patterns completely as we see during the short period of

rifle season. I also believe increasing the number of people during archery season could increase a huge increase in wounded deer due to unethical shots, I feel this happens plenty with the archery hunters in the woods and most of them know what they are doing and know how to shoot more precise than the random people who will just be out there with the crossbows because it is so much like firearm hunting. If Missouri wants to continue to help increase and grow bigger deer the less pressure in the woods would go a long way towards that and crossbows would hurt this tremendously with the vast number of people pushing for this to be passed. The last comment I have would be that we have limited public hunting in the state anyway if you increase the number of hunters to what we see on them during rifle season all season long public ground

will be shot up and way under populated in a short amount of time due to the increased number of deer taken as well as just going to less pressured private ground in the area.

I DO NOT support the idea of reducing the November firearms season to 9 days. I do support the increase of days for late youth season. I do support the idea of shortening antlerless season but I think it needs to be longer than 3 days. I do not support the idea of eliminating the urban portion. I do support allowing the use of a crossbow during bow season. I DO NOT SUPPORT THE REDUCING OF NUMBER OF ANTLERED DEER TO 1 DURING ARCHERY SEASON!

I truly enjoy bow hunting for big bucks. It keeps me in the woods throughout the whole season. Please leave the 2 buck limit alone. Thank you very much. I know the department is doing a great job with the wildlife and service to the people.

I favor your proposed changes with one exception. I would like to see the two buck archery limit maintained. 1. Not that many archery deer are harvested after gun season. 2. Many of the larger bucks are located or have relocated after gun season, offering a new opportunity to an archery hunter. Would it be possible to allow a landowner to harvest two archery deer? Or perhaps one on a landowner tag and an additional buck on an archery tag. Thus a total of three bucks are possible for a landowner. We landowners are the ones providing the habitat for the deer and most of us are working hard to improve that habitat.

I think all of the changes are ok except the nonresident tags. I believe they are entirely too low. I believe Missouri's out of state tags need to be close to the surrounding states. Illinois tags for instance are "HIGHER" and you can't kill as many deer there as us. I have lived in Missouri my entire life and have hunted since I was a small child, here in Missouri we are blessed with an abundance of game and for that I want to say "THANK YOU" to all of you at the MO. Conservation Dept. It is mostly in part of your efforts that we enjoy this abundance. I love that you are wanting to lengthen youth season, I think that is a good thing too. I have three children and they will all love that as well. I love to kill big deer and to hunt other game as well but I think first and for most we need to remember what a "trophy" truly is. Taking any game animal legally is in its self a trophy and for that we should be proud. So all I ask is that you continue to preserve our great heritage and offer us the opportunity to harvest deer and other animals whatever the size.

I strongly agree with your proposals to shorten the rifle season to 9 days. I also agree with your proposal to shorten the antlerless only portion. With the 4 point restriction on bucks I feel more does are being killed than before. I have noticed a significant decline in the deer herd in the area I hunt in. I attribute that to the past several years of hunters being encouraged to kill as many does as allowed. In my opinion, there is a deer abundance problem only in areas where hunting is not allowed i.e. inside city limits. Thank you.

How many archery hunters took more than one antler deer during the 2014 deer season? How many deer were taken during the extra two days of November Deer Season. These two totals would show us the hunters how many deer totals would be affected by reducing deer season and limiting archery hunters to one buck. I would like to see the numbers. How any deer were taken during the antlerless portion and how many deer would be reduced if antlerless season was

reduced? These are all important figures to determine if reducing the hunting days would even make a difference.

Hello, As a former Missouri resident growing up in the Ozarks, and a current property owner and taxpayer there, I would like to share my perspective on the proposed changes. I believe the shortening of the firearms portion is a proper management decision. Being from the Ozarks of south central Missouri, I know there are people bending the rules in that area regardless of season length, so the shortening should hopefully help the deer population at least a little in that area. Antler restrictions would be appropriate and helpful in seeing more mature bucks and not so many 1 1/2 year old spikes being tagged. I do not support lengthening the youth portion. I support shortening the antlerless portion. I support adding crossbow use to the archery portion. I support ending the urban portion. I support only one antlered buck for the archery portion and one antlered buck for the firearms portion. I would like to see some consideration given to reduced cost permits to persons that are not residents but own property/part time residences in Mo. Owning approximately 65 acres in Mo., I feel that as a taxpayer in Mo. for real estate/home, personal property there, and spending money enhancing my property for wildlife, it would only be fair to pay a lower cost for non-resident permits. I would like to see the commission research some options for possible half price permits for part time residents/property owners.

Property/residence proof of ownership would be a simple process at the license vendors with personal property tax receipts. \$225 per permit for archery and firearms and \$190 for turkey is a bit much when paying taxes as well. I hunt in Mo. every spring and fall but it is very cost prohibitive. I have not hunted the archery portion yet because it is too expensive to buy both an archery and a firearms permit with the current prices. Thank you for your consideration!

1. I would like to see the firearms season moved a week later so I am opposed to keeping the current timing. 2. I am opposed to expanding the number of days for youth hunting. 3. I support the reduction in the antlerless season and the move to December. 4. I am not opposed to crossbows being used in the archery seasons. 5. I am not opposed to limiting the archery season limit to one antlered deer, but I question the reason for the change. You allow youth to shoot anything. They should be limited to antlerless only, and the season should be the first weekend in October.

As a nonresident landowner, I am opposed to raising fees across-the-board on nonresident permits. If this passes, please consider a fee exemption or lower fee for those of us that are nonresident landowners. I own 36 acres in Warren County, and I pay my property taxes every year. I don't believe that I should have to pay \$225 for a deer permit to hunt on my own land. If a fee waiver is not possible, I propose adding a category for nonresident landowners. Even a \$100 fee would be more palatable than \$225. I do not support adding crossbows to bow season. In my mind, a crossbow is closer to a firearm than a bow.

Yes, I am a rifle and crossbow hunter I have a permit for crossbow I would like to see it change to be legal with a crossbow not just for myself but a lot of people that enjoy hunting that can't use a bow with physical conditions. I would also like to see the antler restriction back and the rifle season put back a week I just don't see mature bucks anymore. The rifle season is during the

rut so the mature bucks have a low survival rate if it was a week later than usual that would make a big difference. The rest of the changes I have no problem with.

I think all of the proposed changes have been well thought out and have taken the available data into consideration. I would support all of the proposed changes. I would like to especially support the allowance of crossbows as a legal method during the archery seasons. For future consideration, I think that the alternative methods season should be moved to late October (or any time before the firearms season).

The only comment I have is crossbows should not be allowed during the regular bow season.

I am in favor of the proposed changes. I think this is a wise change so that our grandchildren and other future family can enjoy hunting for a long time to come. I also like the cross bow change as well.

Wasn't sure how to respond to above question; correct answer would be your email to me. I am a very selective hunter. Harvested first buck in 4 years this past season as we let anything under 150 plus walk. I agree with all of the above except the open crossbow. I do hunt with a crossbow as I have 2 bad shoulders. Opening up to those not as selective as I am could potentially lower the potential for growing mature bucks. Those 8 point 130's that LOOK so big are 150's next year. You folks do a great job and I truly appreciate all that you do. I have 2 grandsons that will take to the woods in the next few years, so my thoughts are a bit selfish. :)

I think all the changes to the regulations would be fine EXCEPT reducing the antlered archery tags from 2 to 1. I can see reducing the number of buck tags available, but I know a lot of bow hunters who would rather give up their rifle tag for a buck instead. I would like to suggest that the first tag be antlered archery and the second tag be open to weapon of choice. Allow both tags to be filled before the November portion, that would most likely ease the pain of taking away 1 buck tag. If both bucks are taken with a bow before November that hunter would only be able to harvest a doe during rifle season. If only one buck is taken before rifle season then they would be able to harvest a buck with a rifle. Allowing both bucks to be harvested before rifle season could reduce some of the pressure during rifle season, let mentoring another hunter be a higher priority, and let a hunter be able to not pass a management buck early in the season just because they don't have a buck tag for the rut. Yes, harvesting both bucks before rifle season could mean less bucks to breed but that number should be offset by less buck tags. I am not the only hunter with this opinion, most of my buddies agree with this but aren't willing to drive 100 miles to attend a meeting. If there was a meeting added to Rolla we would most likely attend.

Folks, some thoughts on your proposed changes in the Missouri deer season. I am 63 years old and have hunted and fished all over Missouri since I was about 12. I appreciate the job you do and consider MDC to be one of the outstanding departments in the nation. However, I do have some concerns with the proposed changes. I am adamantly opposed to opening archery season to crossbows for all hunters. The whole challenge of bow hunting is to get the target animal close enough for a shot, then draw and shoot without being detected. All of this goes out the window with a crossbow, or "string-gun" as I call them, as they are already cocked, have a scope (pitiful) and much greater killing range. This is very similar to the progression of black-powder season

which began as a challenge with primitive weapons and evolved into in-lines with electronic ignition, powder pellets, sabot bullets, scopes, and much greater killing ranges. You stated that 10,000 Missouri bow hunters already use string-guns due to medical exemptions. Surely you can see the abuse of this system. I know of three hunters, personally, who have no medical issues but got a doctor's statement for an exemption and they laugh about it. So many "hunters" today are looking for the easiest way to put a deer on the ground such as string-guns, suped-up muzzleloaders, feeders, game cameras, etc. Where is the respect for the animal and the challenge of taking it on one-on-one under fair-chase conditions? And they are passing these attitudes and methods on to the youth hunters to which they are supposed to be teaching the traditions of the outdoors and hunting. Wonderful. I have to be honest with you, some of my hunting parts and sometimes myself, feel like the department is just trying to sell more tags with this crossbow change. I'm sure you've heard that before. The deer woods is so saturated with hunters nowadays during gun season, which I blame on the youth seasons getting so many people out there, that I have not rifle hunted since the 2008 season. Now it seems you want to do the same thing to bow season. How about we think of the quality of the experience and truly maintaining some traditions instead of how many "hunters" we can put out there. I will try to attend your meeting in Springfield and voice these concerns publicly. Sincerely, L.D. I would be glad to receive a response to these comments from you.

I am ***STRONGLY*** opposed to reducing the limit of antlered deer during the archery season to 1. I have been an avid bow hunter for nearly 15 years and during that time have never taken 2 bucks with my archery gear and tag, although my family and I like to try. After the firearms season in Southern Missouri all deer are scarce and bucks acceptable to shoot are mostly nocturnal. However, I hunt every year until January 15 trying because I love to bow hunt. I seriously doubt that a significant percentage of bow hunters harvest 2 antlered bucks during the archery season. So essentially, this proposal significantly limits hunter opportunity and will have very little benefit towards the goal of increasing the deer herd or age structure of bucks. A better proposal would be to impose an antler point restriction either during the entire archery season or at least after the firearms season OR for the second archery antlered buck. The current proposal is in direct conflict with the rationales for opening archery season to crossbows. It makes no sense! I work hard to manage the deer herd on my property and this proposal would significantly limit the ability of my family to pursue whitetails with no overall benefit to the deer herd locally or statewide. I would much rather see the firearms season divided up into two shorter portions (a November portion and a December portion) for a total of 9 to 10 days and impose antler point restrictions statewide or as stated above. Thank you for your consideration.

We wonder why Missouri has the potential to have "big bucks" like Iowa and Illinois. I think this is caused mostly by placing a rifle season in the peak of the rut. If we didn't have a rifle season in the peak of the rut more bucks would be able to make it through the year. As an avid bowhunter, it is extremely frustrating to target one mature buck from September and hunt him consistently and then as soon as the rifle season opens he gets shot by someone who doesn't hunt but one week a year. Also, the crossbow proposal is not going to help out the situation either. I practice

all year long and think of bow hunting as a sport. When anyone can pick up a cross bow, pull the Trigger and shoot this doesn't seem appropriate to take place during the regular bow season. It requires no skill. It is essentially a rifle without the noise.

I am strongly against changing the archery limits on bucks. There are far more deer bucks killed in rifle season than archery season. I have never killed two bucks in archery season any way. Why not add a state wide antler restriction and move the rifle season out of the rut. Just a thought. Also don't allow cross bows to archery season. Leave that for the people who actually are handicapped.. Thank you.

I would like the rifle season left alone. Limiting antlerless seasons sounds like a good idea. I am AGAINST crossbows being allowed during archery.

It is nice that the rifle season is 11 days. The other season day changes make sense. Crossbows during bow season is not a good idea. Shooting a real bow takes much more patience, hard work, practice and time put in. Using a crossbow would increase the number of weekend hunters who are not willing to take the time to become skilled in sport which has a special history, nostalgia and difficulty associated with it. Anyone with a disability can get a doctors slip to get one. As far as the decreased number of deer, we now have many bobcats and quite a few mountain lions in the state. These animals kill many deer. Many people think that MDC put mountain lions in the state and it appears that may be the case. Make the bobcat shooting season open the same day as rifle season. The early youth season should be doe only. Many large bucks which hunters have been watching and planting food plots for are shot during youth season. Often it is the dad/adult which shoots them and tags them with the youth tag. If a youth is big enough to shoot a big buck, they can do it during the regular season. I did not let my two boys shoot a buck until they each shot two does. They were extremely excited about the does. The out of state tags are plenty high. We do not want to be like Illinois or Iowa. We want to welcome others to come here at an affordable price and enjoy our state. Thank you for taking the time to consider our comments. MDC has done a good job of showing that they work for the citizens of Missouri.

Seems as though we are leaning more toward big antlered deer to attract more trophy hunters than just good deer management for the hunters that are happy with does or spikes or a nice 6 or 8 pointer. It is my opinion that (in Henry county) we have a deer population that is larger than necessary and should be thinned out. Way to much damage to vehicles and crops. I would like to see the antler regulations removed. Everything else left the same and no crossbow allowed. Thanks for asking.

This agency is a joke. Do not tell me any of these changes are about the herd. It's a money grab. All you are doing is trying to make Missouri a destination for out of state hunters and grab as many out of state fees as possible. If it is really about the herd you wouldn't be making it easier for lazy a--es that won't put in the time and effort it takes to actually HUNT, with a bow. If you want to be known as a big buck state take the rifle season out of the damn rut like all the big buck states around us. But you won't do that cause then it takes some effort to kill a deer and less people would even try and less tags would be bought. Do not infringe on my archery season. If I can only kill one buck with a bow, then I get no more reward for putting in 100+ hours a year in

a stand, and another 100+ hours a year preparing, than the redneck who goes out twice a year drunk holding an elephant gun. Shortening the rifle season by a Monday and Tuesday does nothing, since most have tagged or are back to work by then, but fine it's a start. But then you are completely wiping away that gain and then some by allowing lesser hunters to kill during archery season with a crossbow. Or more likely WOUND not kill, since they won't put in the time to learn a bow they probably don't care much about the shot either. I would be OK with going to a two buck system, no matter the weapon, but only one with a firearm. I should not be allowed less deer than someone who archery hunts and rifle hunts just because I am opposed to rifle hunting. I should have the opportunity to kill two deer as well, and I don't want to hear that I can use my bow during rifle season. I know that and I do that, but it is much easier to kill with a rifle, so I need more than 9 days to get a tag filled with a bow. I should be able to kill one buck before rifle season and if I kill during rifle season then I'm done. If not then I have til Jan. 15. I'll grant that three bucks is excessive if you use your rifle tag and two archery tags. But do not make this a no child left behind state. Leave archery alone and do not allow deer to be killed EASIER!

I have finally gotten a chance to contact you about deer hunting and methods. I really hope that what I have to say gets published in your monthly magazine for public opinion. I have noticed over the last several years that new methods of harvesting deer have been added. I have no issues with that at all. My questions is "Why are there so many specific seasons to hunt deer in the first place?" I can understand that there is an early season for bowhunting, as this is a more difficult task. Once this is over and firearms season begins, it should not matter what type of weapon is used throughout the remainder of the season. There should be no Muzzleloading Season, or Alternative Methods Season. Let's streamline this by offering two tags. One for bowhunting, and one for any legal methods listed in the Missouri Wildlife Code. Point being, we are all limited by what tags we possess legally. How we harvest them "SHOULD BE OUR DECISION", not by what season it is. Say for example, a diehard muzzle loading fan should be able to hunt the entire season until he/she fills his or her tag/tags. If a diehard pistol hunter wishes to hunt the entire season with a pistol, they should be allowed until they fill their tag/tags. I see the seasons and methods as being nothing more than to urge people to buy new equipment to harvest deer. This in general, gives a portion of sales tax to the Missouri Department of Conservation. I am limited on hunting time, usually weekends only. During modern firearms season (my preferred method), this amounts to about 3-4 days for me. If the code was to change, it would give me more time to hunt and fill my tag. Bottom line, "We" are all bound by what tags we legally possess. Does it really matter by what method? G.M.

I think adjusting firearms season to December is a step in the right direction, from a managers stand point. Studies show deer management is catching on and unfortunately are firearms season do not help deer managers because it is when bucks that serious managers are letting get older are out cruising and wind up getting harvested by out of state hunters and meat camps. Meat hunters can still harvest deer in Dec. and allow deer management to thrive. Out of state hunters should have to draw. As far as one buck with bow great but if you don't harvest a buck in fire arms season you should be able to use your bow with that tag until season ends.

Why would we allow crossbows as a legal method for archery? So we can make our state more desirable? No! If we allow crossbows we get the NON-hunters who think one week a year in the woods classifies them as a hunter. If you allow crossbows you might as well allow guns from September to January. The range on these crossbows is ridiculous. There will be more deer killed resulting in less numbers and fewer large bucks. So tell me how this makes our state more desirable to hunt. Plus this will punish the people who actually have a passion for whitetails. These people work hard year round to grow food and manage their deer herd. How can a person manage a healthy deer herd with a bunch of people with crossbows walking around the woods. The proposal of one archery buck and one gun buck punishes the bow hunter. The regulations should be two bucks; either one with bow and one with gun OR both with bow. This does NOT need to be a popular vote because few have the best interest in the whitetail deer herd in they're thinking. If we want improve our deer herd we need to move our gun season to December. This will move the season to where bucks are not as vulnerable, resulting in fewer up and coming bucks being killed. This will increase our number of mature deer, making our state more desirable. Then raise prices on nonresident tags.

I do not like the reduction in buck tags do to population control in my opinion if you want to control population I think it would be better to reduce the number of does taken during archery season. If the number of buck tags is reduced to 1 it will eliminate the practice of selective harvest. I know I will no longer take what I would consider cull bucks if I only have 1 tag. Also, I have never filled both buck tags but I usually do take an older buck that is starting to deteriorate with age. The last buck that I killed with a bow was a small 7 point that had lost all his teeth and was starting to show the effects of it if I only had one buck tag I would not have taken this deer.

I feel like these changes, other than reducing the doe permits, won't have much of an effect on our current situation. I have had a hard time understanding why Missouri is so adamant about keeping gun season in the middle of the rut. Almost every state around us commands the deer world in most every aspect of deer management. We can't command \$400 plus nonresident tags because our hunting isn't half as good as Iowa, Illinois, Kansas, etc. I hear excuses that the people don't want that, but so many of us do. I hear that Sumner wants it done, and he should be our leader, but he can't make it happen. Every state around us kills does just as big as we do, forkhorns just as big as we do, and 6 pointers just as big as we do. But they kill way more mature whitetails than we ever can. Why are we settling for last in that aspect? Why don't we strive to be the best in every way? I know not everyone is a trophy hunter, and that is perfectly ok, but they can still have fantastic hunts with a gun season out of the rut also. It happens every year in lots of other states. The number of those who don't care is falling faster every day, and the number of people who are managing for a healthy herd and for more mature whitetails is rising every year. Those that don't want change have had it their way for the last 25 years. Why isn't it our turn to get a chance at what we want? If the current system proved itself to be better for the herd, then that is one thing. But our herd is just as susceptible to blue tongue and EHD as every other states herd. We are no better than them in any way that I can see. I want to follow and support MDC, but when they get millions more in money than any other agency and other states can do a better

job at management than we can, it's hard to understand. I work for you guys every day, and have since I was 14. I sell your permits for you out of my store. I am fortunate to have great deer hunting opportunities, and I work unbelievably hard to earn my success, but every state I travel to has the same opportunities for young bucks, antlerless deer, etc. and way better chances for mature deer. Why have we not improved at all? If the answer isn't in getting gun season out of the rut, then why isn't our current rules growing more mature deer? The one thing that concerns me more than anything else is a simple fact that I have personally witnessed over the last decade. Every day I work in my shop listening to hunters and fishermen. I listen to thousands of points of view every year. Years ago everything we read and most points of view I heard every day were praise and support for MDC and their accomplishments over the years. In the last several years, I have seen a huge decline in support for MDC and their regulations. More people complain than praise MDC anymore. I am not proud to say that, as I want a group of leaders that I can follow that are as obsessed with it as I am. It is a genuine concern that the general consensus is growing from us (the people and MDC together) to the people vs. MDC. I know there is so much I need to learn, and I know that managing people is a hundred times harder than managing wildlife, but these proposed changes appear to be small changes that won't do much to improve our herd. They serve just to change a few things around to pretend like your trying to appease the hunters that care the most about the whitetail herd. I would love to have some input back so I can have a better understanding of what appears to be stagnant growth for our most valuable wildlife species. Thanks so much for your time.

I've hunted deer in several states and even in Texas and Mississippi and spoke with deer biologist Dr. Kroll and I tell them I'm from Mo. and they chuckled and said oh you're the guys in Mo. who kill there prize bull and eat it before it has a chance to breed the cows meaning gun season in rut! So our deer biologist bringing about changes excites me! Several hunters from other states used to come here and hunt and made fun of our \$75 out of state license cost because we were a trophy state with many b&c book bucks. I b----ed about it and you changed it, and yet they still came but now not so much. They're going to Iowa, Kansas and Ill. I lease land and trophy hunt and am thinking about quitting hunting Mo. as well as my brothers! I'm an archery dealer and hunted many counties and the mention of crossbows only confirms to me the same rhetoric of taking the hunt out of the hunter to sell more tags as if a compound bow isn't enough! A crossbow is a preloaded weapon! So keep it in gun season and that will cut down on disabilities! Our county (Chariton) had blue tongue and the only place that has any deer now is private large land owners who wouldn't dare let anyone kill any does! Road hunters, I call them creepers, who creep along in their portable tree stand looking to steal from the road the only trophy for 5 sq. miles is the other problem and what's the fine \$160 for a deer that might be worth \$10,000. Shouldn't we all just road hunt instead of paying \$10 an acre, stop road hunting 1st by stiffer penalties like other states or I'm quitting! Manage without DOLLAR SIGNS IN YOUR EYES. I've got of attractants for sale in my archery store and you lifted the 4 pt . restriction that was working like it did in Mississippi and because of the lie about CCD it was thrown out the window and we can't use attractants or antler enhancement products! Oh and in

the early days I realize there weren't as many deer and you couldn't shoot a buck till the last weekend of season, we grew a herd of deer to brag about state wide and were considered a trophy state and now people went from seeing 8 or 10 deer to 1 or 2 in a day and complaining to each other about it till I'm sick of hearing it. Our auto body repair shops went from 30 deer related repairs to 0 or 1 per year even though insurance co. lie about the deer related claims so to wipe out all deer and cause MDC to over harvest does in every area so they don't have to pay claims. Hello! Is anyone home? I'm probably wasting my time and I haven't met our new deer biologist but he'll find out that money is the only thing that changes policy or regulation!

I have always enjoyed hunting. I grew up a hunter with my dad. I have never had family that owed or close friends who have owned land. I have to hunt on conservation land for turkey and deer. If MDC takes away hunting privileges on conservation land I believe this would slow quite a few people from being able to hunt. I do like the proposed plan to allow crossbows. I have and use a compound bow. I believe this change would be able to get my dad out in the field during archery season since he is disabled and un able to pull a bow back. I don't believe this change will make tons of people go buy crossbows just to hunt. I think it gives an opportunity for a different style and enjoyable experience.

I think the proposed changes are fine. I want to comment on the nonresident question. I encourage nonresident hunting. It is good for our state economy. However, since you are visiting the subject, I have this suggestion. Double the price of a nonresident deer hunting permit to \$450 and allow it to be good for all deer seasons. ONLY allow for one buck to be harvested on that permit (this is what you all were thinking of doing for residents last year) and they can purchase antlerless tags separately at the amount and price that is best for biological reasons. What does this do? 1. It gives a small advantage to Missouri hunters (who choose to hunt more than one method) and pay the majority of the MDC tax (which I am all for). 2. It gets us more in line with surrounding states (IA is over \$600 and KS is over \$450 when you consider everything you have to buy just to hunt deer there, not just the deer permit). 3. It gives the MDC a way to pilot project how the public will perceive a one buck limit in Missouri. There should be an advantage to Missouri residents when hunting deer. Nonresidents are allowed all of the same season, drawings and privileges and do not carry the majority of the wildlife costs. Some states have special resident only seasons or allow certain animals to only be harvested by residents or have HUGE differences in tag costs (because they don't have the funding mechanism we do, however that doesn't mean you should ignore opportunity, see below). PLEASE READ THIS, The 1/10th of one percent tax is a great thing and I don't want to see it go away, but it IS under attack right now and you should do something to show appreciation to Missouri residents that foot the majority of that tax bill. It WILL HELP at the voting booth (nonresidents won't vote on a state tax initiative) if that ever happens, which I hope it does not. Thanks for taking the time to read and consider my comments.

I am ok with eliminating the Monday-Tuesday during Thanksgiving week for rifle season. I am ok with cutting antlerless to 3 days in December. I did not see anything said about alternative weapons season, so I am presuming it is staying as is. I am ok with moving late youth hunt to the

Friday Saturday Sunday after Thanksgiving. What I am disappointed in is especially the early youth hunt. I know the idea is to promote the next generation of hunters but for some it is being done at the integrity of the sport. I see way too many youths who are incapable of holding a rifle up, more or less even being able to fire the weapon. I do not be in this 'look the other way' attitude of the conservation department. I think the age needs to be increased and they need to go thru the hunter education first. It may be that the local conservation agent needs to hold a 'qualifying' day or two where everyone comes and they demonstrate they can handle the weapon safely and fire. Agent could give the kid a card. The way it is going on now, it just appears to be an early deer season for dad as long as he takes a child with him. Now I know there are plenty of the older youths who I have no issue with and feel confident that they can do the job. It just bothers me about some of the perceived abuse by some taking advantage of a loophole. I guess I would feel better about it if the age was raised and the hunter education done. At least consider raising the age.

I agree with the proposed changes and think it will help restore the herd size and promote a better quality and size of the antlers. I can't seem to find in the new regulations where and when our firearms-alternative method including muzzleloader season will be held. I hope that you don't do away with the muzzleloader season as I do not take small legal bucks during firearms season and hunt in the later alternative season for a larger buck if I don't find one during the regular firearms season. Thanks for the splendid job you do for Missouri Conservation, D.

I am in favor of the proposed deer season changes. As long as the current timing of firearms season is maintained and hunters are still allowed two full weekends of hunting, I like the reduction of firearms season to 9 days. I also like the proposed change in antlerless season to 3 days in December. These two changes alone should help reduce stress on deer populations and allow for healthier herds. I am much in favor of the proposed archery season changes as well. Reducing the number of allowed antlered deer taken to one per hunter during archery season should reduce the number of antlered deer taken resulting in more mature bucks in deer herds throughout the state. Allowing crossbows to be used in archery season is also an interesting proposal that I believe could be beneficial as it could introduce more and new hunters into archery hunting. I look forward to seeing what changes are approved for the 2016-2017 deer season!

I absolutely, 1000000% disagree limiting regular archers to 1 antlerless deer just so you can legalize crossbows for archery season. You know kill will go up with crossbows, so you are punishing the guys who take hunting serious and love the archery season. I usually back the department 100% on decisions, but this is getting ridiculous. You didn't address non resident tags. Too many guys coming here because for the same money, they get an archery tag and a rifle tag and get 3 bucks. You're killing the resident's access. I don't care if someone moved away and are coming back to hunt with family. That was their decision and they suffer the consequences. NR deer tags should be season specific and a minimum of \$375 with no antlerless tags for them.

There shouldn't be a point limit for bow hunters because many seldom get a chance and you are limiting their success. Crossbows; I have no problem with them if they are more effective and offer more opportunity. Two buck limit for bow hunters should remain the same, very few go after the gun season and the success rate and numbers are low. Three day doe season won't matter because most are taken in the first two days of each season. Coyotes should be shot year round because they kill half of the deer fawns. Why not let coyote hunters hunt at night with the aid of a light and limit it to shotgun only?

Concur with deer regulation changes with the exception of the following: Totally disagree with permitting crossbows as a legal weapon during bow season except for those with approved disability. Crossbows shoot like rifles. If you are not disabled and want to use a crossbow, do it during firearms season. It tarnishes the bow hunting sport even considering it. Also, if you are going to only permit 1 buck with archery, impose the 8pt restriction state wide and truly make Missouri a quality trophy state like Kansas, Iowa, and Illinois. Bucks need to reach maturity before harvest, period. As per cost of non-resident deer permit below, charge the same amount as their state charges Missouri residents.

The most effective way to manage Missouri's deer herd is to regulate the firearms portion of deer season. This should be the mantra of the Missouri Department of Conservation Department's biologists. I am not a wildlife biologist but it has been said that "you don't need a weatherman to know which way the wind blows." There are many reasons why this suggested mantra is obvious. 1) Center fire rifles are highly effective, accurate and require minimal skill to be lethal. This equates to a much greater chance for success for the hunter, meaning a harvested deer. Firearms hunters will have the greatest impact on the deer herd. 2) Archery hunters are fewer in number. The number of firearms hunters taking to the woods on the opening day of season is greater than the armies of most small countries. I don't have the numbers but I am sure that the total number of archery hunters is a small percentage of the overall number of firearms hunters. 3) Firearms deer hunters are responsible for the overwhelming majority of the overall deer harvest. Conversely, archery hunters produce a small percentage of the overall deer harvest. Thus, further restricting the archery regulation will have an extremely limited impact on the size or age structure of the deer herd yet will limit hunter opportunity. 4) Archery hunters are more likely to abide by the statewide regulations which currently exist. This certainly does not apply to every archery or firearm hunter but talk to your agents and look at conviction statistics and I am sure that you will find that, overall, firearms hunters are less likely to follow the existing regulations. By its very nature, archery hunting is an endeavor with low odds for success. A hunter who chooses utilize archery methods is less concerned about success (a harvest) as he or she is about the experience and quality of the hunt and is therefore less likely to "cheat" to achieve success (a harvest). 5) Archery hunters are more likely to self-impose regulations beyond what the law requires. Again, this does not apply to every archery or firearm hunter but as a group archery hunters are more likely to be pursuing a certain "quality" of animal or quality of hunt instead of just any success (harvest). Therefore, an archery hunter is more likely to "pass" on harvesting a deer in hopes of harvesting a particular type of deer or doing it by a

certain method even knowing that this might result in an un-filled tag. In other words, in the Missouri Department of Conservation's Hunter Education Manual called, Today's Hunter in Missouri, The Five Stages of Hunter Development are discussed. By and large gun hunters are more likely to be in stages 1 or 2 the shooting stage or limiting-out stage where the primary focus is getting off a shot or limiting out whereas bow hunters are more likely to be in stages 3 - 5 the trophy, method, and sportsman stages where the focus is on a particular quality of animal, the method used or the total experience of the hunt. It follows that, since archery hunters are more likely self-restricting, archery seasons are less in need of regulation. 6) Archery hunters are more likely to be "managers." Once again, this does not apply to all firearm and archery hunters but archery hunters are more likely to engage in habitat management such as timber stand improvement, native grass establishment, food plotting, native browse enhancement, trail camera surveys, prescribed burning etc. This kind of monetary and "sweat equity" investment creates a respect and appreciation for the resource (deer) and makes the hunter more likely to be conservation-minded and self-impose restrictions. On the other hand, the majority of firearms hunters are consumers or users of the resource with no investment into it. This creates a lack of self-incentive in the firearm hunter to protect the resource unless required to do so. Thus more regulations are required for the firearms season. It's common sense: A person takes better care of something if he or she had to work for it, invests in it or pays for it, and "owns" it. And the natural converse is, if a person has no investment into a thing he or she is less likely to care for and protect it. The bottom line is that, regulating the firearms season will have a tremendous impact on the deer herd and is the most effective way to manipulate, control and impact the size and quality of Missouri's deer herd. On the other hand, tinkering with the archery regulations will have very limited impact to the deer herd but have the significant negative result of disillusioning conservation's biggest supporters and limiting hunter opportunity. So how should the Missouri Department of Conservation regulate the firearms deer season? An initial observation is that Missouri is situated square in the middle between Illinois, Iowa and Kansas. These three states have long been considered the "go to" states for quality whitetail hunting in terms of the number of animals and trophy potential for deer. Missouri has a decent reputation too but watch enough hunting shows and you're far more likely to hear the hunter bragging about getting the "coveted Iowa tag" or being excited about getting to travel to the "great whitetail states" of Kansas or Illinois. Also, the number of whitetail outfitters in these three states far exceeds the number in Missouri. This means that people are more willing to pay good money to hunt those states than they are in Missouri, meaning that they think hunter opportunity is better in those places. And having traveled to some of these places myself I can tell you there is a difference in the size and quality of the deer herd. The difference in those three states is that they have far more restrictive firearms deer season regulations, period. It's that simple. In 2013 the overall deer harvest in Missouri was significantly lower than previous years. Since then, the Missouri Department of Conservation has been conducting numerous hunter and public opinion surveys and the Department is now proposing numerous regulation changes with the purported goal of increasing the deer herd, although not much is said about its quality. Based on all of the foregoing, considering the deer herds in neighboring states and with the understanding that the

most effective way to manage Missouri's deer herd is to regulate the firearms portion of deer season the following are some possible suggestions: 1) Modify the firearms season dates. Traditionally Missouri has had a comparatively long and intense firearms season allowing the use of center fire rifles in the peak of the rut, the time when deer activity is high, especially for young bucks not paired with does who are traveling seeking a mate. Our neighboring states mentioned do not have this type of long, intense firearms season which allow long-range rifles. The three previously mentioned states either have their firearms season after the peak rut or break the seasons up shorting their length and intensity. Our Department could move the season back after the peak rut, break the season up into two seasons (a November portion and a December portion) with the same number of days but divided, or simply shorten the season. This would reduce the length and intensity of the season which means less stress on the deer herd and better recovery post-rut and pre-winter. 2) Modify the allowable methods during firearms season. At least two of the neighboring states mentioned allow only shotgun and/or muzzleloaders during the firearms deer season. Modern shotguns and muzzleloaders have increased in effective range and accuracy but are nothing like the long-range capabilities of many center fire rifles. The truth of the matter is that the average Missouri firearm hunter is an ethically accurate shot only to about 200 yards maximum yet many have weapons enabling them to take shots far beyond that range. Every year after firearms season I observe numerous wounded deer on my trail cameras whose wounds could not have been sustained as a result of an ethical shot. I'm sure many of these deer perish. Limiting the methods to shotguns, muzzleloaders or maybe even calibers like 30/30 would reduce the chance of deer being wounded and not recovered as a result of shots beyond the hunter's effective range. 3) Impose antler restrictions statewide. There has been much debate amongst deer biologists as to whether this is effective at increasing the age structure of bucks but as it stands now the "if it's brown it's down" philosophy reigns for a majority of the firearms deer season. If the goal is to increase the deer herd, you have to decrease the deer harvest. Eliminating young bucks from the harvest would help significantly to achieve those goals. Visit any meat processing plant on the opening day of firearms deer season and you are sure to see a large number of bucks 2 years of age or less. There could be exemptions to this regulation for apprentice and youth hunters. 4) Reduce tag availability or increase price for nonresidents. The three neighboring states mentioned previously either have reduced availability of firearms tags to non-residents by limiting number and having lotteries and drawings, much higher prices than Missouri or both. In Missouri, unlimited tags are available over the counter at a price much lower than the three states mentioned. Changing this would have the obvious result of increasing the deer herd. Related regulations could be to restrict the methods available for nonresidents or impose nonresident antler restrictions on bucks. 5) Eliminate the antlerless portion of the firearms season. This could be a temporary fix to the number of the deer herd and could be modified as to a region or on a county basis depending on deer numbers and only a yearly basis. As stated previously the most effective way to manage Missouri's deer herd is to regulate the firearms portion of deer season. The suggestions stated above are likely to have the greatest impact towards the Department's stated management goals whereas proposals to modify the archery season are likely to have no

significant benefit. Therefore, I hope the Department will have the courage and public support to make the appropriate changes as needed.

I hunt in Lincoln and Linn counties and over the past several years I have seen a decrease in the number of deer that I see while hunting. In years past I would see a good mixture of young bucks to mature bucks and lots of does, this has progressively declined over the past 3 or so years, now I see fewer deer with the majority of deer being young bucks with very few mature bucks and few does. I believe that there are far too many deer being harvested throughout the state of Missouri. I know that this is the case with most of the state from my observations and through talking with other hunters experiencing the same things. I am not only concerned with the number of deer I see but the overall health of the herd. I strongly agree with the changes being made to the regulations already but I would prefer to see only 2 tags available for purchase, one any deer and one antlerless being able to be used during archery or firearms deer season. Another point I would like to make is restrictions on the number of landowner tags available for purchase, I believe that there should be a limited number of tags available to a landowner according to the number of consecutive acres that are owned on a tract of property. I believe that there are too many deer being harvested on small tracts of private ground around the acreage that I hunt on, I would say that there are lots of places across Missouri that is may be the case. I appreciate the opportunity to submit my opinions and thank you for your time.

I think the shorter rifle season is an extreme measure. When added to the extended youth season it seems like a tradeoff. Better to put the same restrictions on 2nd time youth hunters, that are on adult hunters. I do not like the archery limit being reduced to 1 antlered deer. It is hard enough for an archer even with today's tech to kill a buck that fits the 4 point rule. If this has to be done the 4 point rule should be removed from archery.

Reduce the length of firearms deer season - YES; DO NOT expand youth season; YES - Reduce the length of a antlerless season; YES -Eliminate urban zones season; DO NOT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES allow crossbows to be used during archery season; DO NOT reduce the number of antlered deer that can be killed during archery season.

Leave the deer season at 11 days. Stop giving the hunters a free reign on killing as many does as they want. Do away with the bonus tags. You can only shoot ONE deer of either sex during the regular rifle season. Stop the antlerless deer season after the regular season. Three days on alternative hunt. Bow season leave the season start times alone. Bow season limit should be one deer before the deer season and one deer after the deer season (split season). Leave the Youth seasons the way they are.

Definitely would like the crossbow option during deer and turkey archery portion.

I understand that some deer numbers are low in places in the state but in others there is still a great number of deer. My deer season was not as good as some but it started out good and the numbers decreased as the season went. This was because of hunting pressure not deer numbers. If we drop the hunting days down the deer kill will be down. There for all the deer that would've been killed will have more fawns. Say 20,000 does make it through the season that will jump (if all of these does have two which is pretty common) the population up 60,000. The bad thing

about this is, there could be more deer deaths caused by whatever mother nature throws at them to keep the deer numbers in check. I am all for looking out for the deer herd but I would rather see a deer shot and butchered and ate by a person other than die a painful death out in the woods someplace. There has to be a better way other than cutting down times to hunt. There is no happy medium we as land owners are the ones who suffer during the bad times. Thank you for reading this I appreciate it

Let me start off by saying I do agree that a few changes are needed but I don't think all the proposed changes for the 2016-2017 deer season don't go far enough! One of the proposed changes that I would argue about is only allow a hunter to take one buck during archery season! How many archery hunters take more than one buck? I believe it should be the other way only one doe instead that would probably do more for the deer population! One thing I think that should have been added was to make deer drives illegal I believe that there is way too many deer getting wounded and not found due too poor shot placement etc.! One more thing is if you want to have more of an impact with shorting the season to nine days why not have it open on a Monday instead of a Saturday! I hunt in more than one county and I probably log more hours in the tree stand then 50% of the hunters out there one off the single biggest issues I have is dogs running deer! On a different note, there are a lot of regulations and laws out there already to protect wildlife that are not being enforced primarily due not wanting to turn your neighbor or someone you might know in! I travel from I-70 all down to almost Arkansas several times a year I average approx. 150 miles a day driving I see places where there is to many deer and places where there is hardly any! One thing that I think that should happen is that landowners should have to choose between landowner permits and regular firearms permits they should not be allowed to get both! One last thing is that I think there should be a limited quota on all non-resident deer permits and it should go to a lottery system for those that's just my opinion!

From a management standpoint the method of harvest may not matter, but the addition of crossbows for archery seems unnecessary. It is easy enough for someone to get exemption for injury or age to use a crossbow during archery seasons. What is the benefit to adding crossbows now? However, I do support the reduced limit for bucks during archery seasons. I fully support the proposed firearms season changes. Management has reached their goal to reduce populations. It is time to reduce antlerless harvest and let populations grow again.

The MDC philosophy mostly aligns with ours, as landowners of several hundred acres of woods. We're a nearly retired middle aged couple who've only been living in Missouri for a few years, with two kids in college, who will now rarely be able to hunt and help us manage our property and herd density correctly; we will have trouble with the continued reduction in permits. Provide maximum opportunity and access; Minimize barriers; Use hunting to achieve wildlife management objectives; Support the economic benefits that result from hunting and fishing; Ensure that hunting and fishing remain viable mainstream activities for Missourians; Promote an understanding of our hunting and fishing heritage and traditions. Besides the recreational activity, venison and turkey provide us all of our meat throughout the year. We regularly Share the Harvest, because there are only two of us now and it is a great way to help out our fellow

Missourians in need. We will continue to donate more venison in the future, provided you do not continue to limit our ability, as a couple, to manage our buck-to-doe ratio and remove certain animals from the herd, by overly restricting our ability to hunt and harvest deer. To our knowledge, the MDC does not provide landowners in our situation with the ability to increase our deer take, now that these limitations have been put in place. Our total tags are not enough for management purposes on an annual basis now and will only worsen in the future, with the proposed changes. Unlike areas that surround us, EHD and the drought had only a small impact on our herd and we are fortunate to have a very healthy herd and part of that resulted from us limiting our harvest the last couple years. We're managing our land using QDMA principles, but we will have difficulty doing so if the MDC ties our hands. We realize we are in a unique situation; two people, and hundreds of acres of woods, but some states provide landowners/farmers with the ability to take deer (throughout the year in some states) in order to manage their herd. Who knows their herd better than the landowner? Having said that, we have no issue with reducing the days in the firearms season, moving the youth portion, allowing folks to hunt with crossbows (only for youth or the Medically Certified Disabled hunters), and we do not hunt in urban or Conservation Areas. We'd like to see the antlerless portion, if it has to be reduced, be limited to no fewer than 9 days as well. As primarily archery hunters, and older folk who one day may need a medical note to hunt with a crossbow, we would again like to be able to take multiple bucks during the archery season and see no reason to change the take. We want to manage our herd and not have an overpopulation of unhealthy deer. Continuing to limit our ability to harvest deer will negatively impact our land going forward, unless certain allowances are made for landowners in our situation.

I agree with most of the proposed changes except for the archery portion. I don't think that allowing crossbows for everyone is a change for the better of the sport of archery. Also, I don't agree with the proposed change of one buck during the archery season. I understand the goal of that is to allow more bucks to reach a mature age but I feel that the landowners should have more say in what deer are harvested on his property. I feel that moving the start of archery season back to October 1 would decrease the number of bucks taken during the archery season.

The appearance is that the proposal to open archery season to crossbows is not based upon sound wildlife biology but on the desire to sell more archery tags. The Department is aware that this will result in more deer killed so the proposal is to make that up by reducing the number of antlered bucks allowed during archery season from 2 to 1 knowing that the existing archers will still buy their tags. This takes away from the dedicated and serious archers. Crossbow permits are already liberally available to anyone with an injury or condition preventing him or her from shooting a bow. And why not simply propose to allow apprentice and youth crossbow permits if the goal is recruitment of hunters? I would whole-heartedly support that. Please do not put tag revenue ahead of biology and disillusion conservation's biggest supporters. And it does not make sense to impose greater restrictions on RESIDENT archers and not impose greater restrictions on NONRESIDENT gun hunters. This also looks like an attempt to put tag revenue ahead of biology. The most effective way to manage the deer is to manage the trigger. Also,

consider breaking the state up into management units with different as-needed regulations in each. North of the Missouri River is far different than south.

I am going to assume that the alternative method season, will experience no changes. I'd like to propose another change. One in which we combine the antlerless portion, with the alternative method portion and make it a 9 day hunt. Like the late portion of youth season, that has little participation due to bad weather, I believe that the alternative method season experiences the same drawbacks. I'd like to see them combined and moved to the first weekend in December (as proposed for antlerless season) and run for 9 days. My vote would go with those of us who are against a 3 day, antlerless portion, as it allows those of us who hunt deer for meat, and not a rack, a longer opportunity to harvest a deer. Thank you.

I'm in favor of most of the changes, especially the crossbow addition. However, I'm not a supporter of the reduced antlerless season. You say the current deer population is at, or below what you consider to be ideal. I understand that, and have seen some evidence of that while out scouting. But if the antlerless portion doesn't significantly increase the number of does harvested, why not keep things the way they are, or at least give us a 5 day season? As the saying goes, if it ain't broke, don't fix it.

I think it's time for the bow hunters to accept change, as did the muzzleloader hunters years ago. I invested in a cap and ball rifle to take advantage of the muzzleloader season. With the popularity of the inline muzzleloader it has increased the number of hunters that are in the woods. As I get older the chances for me to continue to bow hunt go down, if you can't meet the medical requirements for cross bow use, you won't be able to hunt. So I would like to see cross bows legal for archery season. This would allow older hunters to continue to hunt no matter what their physical limits might be.

Move gun season out of the peak of the rut. This will increase the amount of does that are bred each year and increase the total herd numbers. Do not legalize crossbow, continue to offer crossbow to hunters who are disabled, or too old to draw a crossbow. One buck with gun, one with bow. Very difficult to find 3 mature bucks to kill. Will increase age structure of Missouri bucks. Move archery season up to beginning of September, increase non-resident deer permit cost, out of state hunters would pay an increased amount for the opportunity to kill a buck in velvet, could increase MDC revenue. Thanks for all your hard work and listening to Missouri hunters.

I hunted archery for deer for many years, but as I got older, I had to reduce draw weight. I am now down to 30 lbs. due to aging muscles and joints. This is not enough in my mind to consistently kill an animal the size of a deer. In addition to old hunters, many young hunters are also unable to hunt with a bow and must use a firearm to kill a deer at 30 or 40 yards. Current regulations do not allow use of a crossbow due to age alone. To all the archery purists I say "some day you too will be old". I would welcome allowing crossbows as a legal method during the archery season.

Yes on crossbows for archery season.

I like the reduced November gun hunting change but am not a big fan of the reduction in antlered bucks during archery season. I am not a trophy hunter I hunt to fill my freezer and only gun hunt a couple of days every few years. I just don't feel that is the state's place to continue to try and trophy manage the states deer herd. I know the tv show and the outfitters are all about trophies but I do not think that is the place of the state. I for one shot both doe and bucks as long as they are big enough for my time to process them then I will take either and yes I have a couple of trophies over the last 33 years but not because I managed my land or only hunted for big bucks I try to keep a good balance on our land yet I still have a large buck population. As far as youth season is concerned, my only problem is with the early portion as I simply refer to this as daddy's special buck weekend. It has gotten out of hand how small some of the kids are that are allegedly holding a rifle bigger than them and shooting it. I taught both my kids to hunt when they were ready and could pick up and safely handle the gun they would be hunting with. We even hunted youth weekend but they did the shooting.

I believe all but one of these changes is beneficial to the deer herd in Missouri. I do not agree with making crossbows a part of archery season without medical reasoning. I am not sure how this would benefit a decreasing deer herd. As well the fact that many public grounds can become hunter heavy as it is, and this would definitely open the door to increased pressure during archery season.

I would like to see the four point rule state wide. I believe if things are shortened it will mostly affect the honest hunters. I believe without the four point rule some people will get friends and family members to tag there extra deer for them. With the four point rule much less deer will be shot. Therefore more deer survive. 2015 I was looking for a deer in with at least four on one side and I never filled a single tag in archery or rifle seasons. Only saw a couple bigger bucks.

I am an out of state land owner. I purchased land in Missouri to hunt because the land is beautiful and the people are great. When I bought the land the out of state license fee was lower than \$225 (I think \$150.00). I am very willing to pay the current fee to hunt in Missouri even though it is higher than it was when I began hunting there. I am afraid if the fees keep increasing I will need to sell the land and continue to hunt here in Wisconsin exclusively. It costs me quite a bit to hunt in Missouri as it is and I hope the license fees don't price me out of the market. I understand that the native residents may not care what the price is for out of state hunters. I also understand that envy and dislike of out of town hunters may cause many to think that the fees need to be raised, but I really hope to be able to afford to continue hunting in the great state of Missouri. Please keep your fees affordable for the working man who wants to travel to Missouri to hunt.

I hunt all seasons and pretty much every weekend of bow, every day of November rifle and every day of alternative muzzle load season. I hunt private ground in Linn County. 1. Total of 2 does per hunter but would like to see the option of both by archery if rifle was not successful. 2. Move November firearms portion to after rut. 3. Total of 2 bucks per hunter but would like to see the option of both by archery if rifle was not successful. 4. Total of 3 deer per person per year. 5. Outlaw whitetails at game ranches, with our herd in Missouri people should have plenty of opportunities to hunt on public or private ground.

I personally don't think we need to shorten the firearms deer season if anything we need to make it longer! We have so many deer, we need to harvest more. As far as expanding the youth season, that'd be great! As I said before, we need to harvest more deer so shortening the antlerless season does not sound like a good idea. Also, I think the urban zone portion should be kept in effect, and keep the harvest numbers up. Last but not least, I think the restrictions on antlerless hunting per county is not going to be effective in harvesting enough deer.

I already stated that I think that we need to harvest more deer so reducing the number of antlered deer tags will reduce the harvest more and that would be increasing the number of deer to auto accident rate more than it is already. That being said, I support the use of crossbows during the archery season.

I agree with all but one of the proposed changes. I do not agree to expand the late youth portion to 3-days beginning the first Friday after Thanksgiving.

Most are positive. However, I would like to see the early youth moved earlier out of the rut and the firearms season moved one weekend back. I have 2 youth hunters and I do not see the moving of late youth to Thanksgiving weekend as positive. Family get-togethers will remove the time spent in the field. I am an avid deer hunter but Thanksgiving should be spent with all family. Thanks.

I support the proposed changes particularly changing the crossbow to a legal weapon during archery seasons.

I am against shortening the seasons. Most of us older hunters do not get out on really bad days. I'm afraid making the season shorter, it will cause more poaching. A lot of workers can only hunt some weekends.

I fully support all changes except crossbow in archery season.

The primitive weapons season is too late in the year. Deer movement is very low in the daytime. Need to go back where it used to be.

I like the changes proposed. I have always thought bow hunting limits should be in line with gun hunting limits, one antlered buck per season

I like most of the ideas planned. I don't like the one antler deer only during fall archery season. But would compromise that for allow of crossbow as it is a pain going to the Dr and all the crap for the exemption I have to carry now.

I agree with all the changes that are under consideration, in fact I'd like to see it for 2015.

Looking at the purposed changes for next year deer regs. I don't have issue with taking two days off the regular rifle season (Monday and Tuesday). I don't like the idea of moving the youth weekend to Thanksgiving weekend. I understand the reason but I would think it would be better to if you going to cut the antlerless season to three days. Make it Thanksgiving weekend and the youth after that. Basically switch the schedule. Also, taking out the Urban season, I personally don't like that idea. The changes to Bow season, I agree with changing it from two possible bucks to one. Also, I like the idea of allowing crossbows in Bow season, I believe if that regulation changes I would then consider hunting during Bow season.

I agree with legalizing crossbows. They are legal in Oklahoma and Kansas, and I go there and hunt just to use my crossbow. That's over 700\$ a year I pay in non resident fees that I will spend on other things in Missouri if legalized. I agree with shortening antlerless season. Do away with urban zone, but open up more parks and properties in city limits for archery due to high numbers of deer and vehicle deer collisions. As bad as I hate to say it, it's time for a 1 buck archery. So many people fill other people's tags that most are killing extra bucks with archery if they want. Plus they will get another with rifle anyways. And finally, there is not enough game wardens. 2 in some counties is an absolute joke. I have called the game warden a couple times and they either won't come, don't come, too busy, what violation I have to report isn't important enough blah blah blah. I support our game wardens 100% but they have too much area and too many hunters to keep up with. And Missouri trespassing laws are a joke. I had a game warden refuse to even investigate my claim and pictures because it "wasn't a priority." Not naming any name. Thank you for the opportunity to have input. Please legalize crossbows!

Charge other states what they charge us to hunt their state. Extend the youth season. Leave rifle season alone, some of us only get to hunt certain days shorting it will impact our chances especially in new Madrid county where we CAN NOT shoot a doe with a rifle on state ground and have too many deer competing for food can shoot them on private ground but not everybody can afford a lease maybe switched it from rifle season to shotgun only so you can't shoot a deer at five hundred yards. Give a two buck limit one with a bow one with a rifle or shotgun that way people have to shoot at least one doe or give two buck tags to kill with any method you want. Crossbows I do not have a problem with adding them in to regular hunt methods. Keep the urban seasons open to keep population down in those areas or ya'll fully cover the cost to have the vehicles repaired. We have a chance to have one of the best deer hunting states around if done right and actually take in what people say. We need to raise the fees for out of state hunters, we are one of the lowest prices out there. Have a lottery tag system put in place for out of state to limit the amount of people coming in here to hunt that act like fools and shoot whatever walks by. Four point rule state wide, no matter what, keep us at two bow tags for deer and two bow tags for turkey in the fall and one tag for rifle unless you are in Howell or Oregon county where the deer are super thick like rabbits. And that's another topic to get on, keep it to where we can hunt swamp rabbits except during rifle season in the bootheel. I'm an avid deer hunter and rabbit hunter, we give till after rifle season before we hunt rabbits when we miss out on a lot of the season we have just as much rights to hunt rabbits on state ground as we do to hunt deer and already take a cut in that season enough. Thanks for listing on what we have to say.

Decreasing the hunting days simply means more hunters in the woods at the same time, not necessarily fewer deer harvested. You have to decrease the number of tags issued to ensure fewer deer taken. A radical change in the antlerless season will mean constant tinkering with the number of days from year to year. Slow changes are preferred. Sure seems the argument for too few deer is unreasonable considering crop damage reports. Better to allow more hunting in selected areas, and less hunting in other areas. The goal of deer management is not to provide readily accessible deer for hunting. It is to provide a healthy and sustainable population of deer

for generations. The current population is well in excess of that number. Taxpayers ought not be subsidizing deer hunters. Make the in-state and out-of-state licenses such that the hunters pay for all hunter related costs. Same goes for fishing. The Missouri conservation sales tax is not a revenue for hunters to exploit, but for true conservation efforts. Hunting is required when those efforts are failing to maintain that sustainable population of healthy animals. Start to view the hunting as a failure to control the population, not as a reason for increasing the population. Or change the name of MDC to the Missouri Department of Animal Slaughter. And I am not one opposed to hunting. I am one opposed to government profiting from the killings. Soon the government views their purpose is to make available more animals for killing to make more money.

In my opinion, MDC has managed the deer herd superbly. MDC has the knowledge and expertise to maintain a healthy productive herd. Stick with it! Now increasing bow hunting is a great idea. Archery takes more commitment and offers quality time in the woods. Bow or crossbow I don't think makes any difference. I'm a senior citizen and would love to be able to use a cross bow. If you want to encourage younger hunters offer the hunter safety course online, my son could never find a full weekend away from school activities to take it. We had a 60 acre farm and he could hunt there on a farm tag, so he got by. But the safety course would have been good for him.

KS gets \$100 more on out of state on the deer permit alone, and you have to buy a hunting license too for \$71 of so. The new proposes sound good, deer pop is down, people been killing all the does off, that has to stop. Crossbows have drawbacks, loud, not easy to take 2nd shot, most can't be left drawn for more than 4 hours max. Compound bow is way better.

Firearms Season Changes: Maintain the current timing of the November portion and reduce the length to 9-days - I am fine with this change. Expand the late youth portion to 3-days beginning the first Friday after Thanksgiving – Don't really have an opinion on this but I thought the timing was so kids can use Christmas presents. Reduce the length of the antlerless portion to 3-days and begin on the first Friday in December - I am fine with this, this should help the deer numbers. Eliminate the urban zones portion - Not sure I understand this, the deer in the city seem to be doing fine. Archery Season Changes: Allow crossbows as a legal method during the archery deer and turkey season - I don't think I like this as a rule for everyone. I understand the goal. Maybe make it so that kids under 16 can use a X bow and adults over 55. Reduce the limit of antlered deer during the archery season to 1 - I disagree with this one. It's hard enough to get a buck with a bow. If I am hunting late season and see a buck If I would like to be able to shoot him. I have to imagine the number of people that shoot 2 bucks with a bow is able small number anyway. Conservation Area Regulations: Simplify conservation area regulations by limiting methods and use of firearms and archery antlerless permits - I have no opinion on this topic.

I agree with changes except for allowing crossbows as a legal method. I would not be opposed to the crossbows being allowed in the alternative methods season or maybe in a separate season after firearms season. It seems a bit redundant to lower the number of bucks to 1 for archery season and then allow thousands more hunters use crossbows to harvest more bucks yet. The

reasoning clearly states the law was put in place when there were less than 100,000 archery hunters and that now there are more than 180,000 without considering how many more hunters allowing cross bows will bring in. Hunters who are medically incapable of pulling a bow and over a certain age already have the right to use a crossbow as a method. With the availability of cheap extremely adjustable bows and the archery in the schools program more kids are entering the sport. I could see maybe adding the crossbow as a legal method for kids under a certain age.

Please take rifle season out of the rut. Look at Iowa, Illinois, and Kansas, they have way better quality on bucks and seasons out of rut. Crossbows should be legal some adults and kids are not able to draw compounds back. You talk about getting kids involved so letting them use crossbows would be another way to do that. Also, raise the price of out of state tags. My husband pays over \$550 to hunt Iowa because of the quality. Dropping the limit on bucks wouldn't hurt either. Nobody needs to kill 3 bucks a year. I say drop it to one buck and you can kill it however you want bow or gun. That would make people think twice before they shoot a 2 year old deer.

Maintain the current timing of the November portion and reduce the length to 9-days: YES
Expand the late youth portion to 3-days beginning the first Friday after Thanksgiving: NO
Reduce the length of the antlerless portion to 3-days and begin on the first Friday in December: NO. Eliminate the urban zones portion: YES. Allow crossbows as a legal method during the archery deer and turkey season: NO. Reduce the limit of antlered deer during the archery season to 1: YES. Simplify conservation area regulations by limiting methods and use of firearms and archery antlerless permits: YES

Please let kids use crossbows. I'm not strong enough yet to pull a compound but I would love the chance to get out during archery season. Also, move the rifle season out of the rut and let the big bucks breed like nature intended.

In my opinion, limiting the number of bucks to one during bow season is more of an effort to produce bigger bucks rather than raise population. While in turn, hurting the families that use deer from their small farms to help out with grocery bills. The management of big bucks should be controlled by the landowners. You don't eat horns. We should also make more of the MDC income from the out-of-state hunters that do no more with the land than come and hunt on it. May help the out-of-state landowners out for helping manage the land. Limiting the number of doe tags was a good idea, but needs to be adjusted after population grows, to maintain instead of raise or lower population. Archery has always been fun because it is so much more challenging. Allowing crossbow statewide, not only puts deer at much more of a disadvantage, but also goes against the idea of this whole topic of trying to raise the deer population. I also feel the deer population is low, and am doing everything I can on my 90 acres to make a difference. It costs a lot of money to try to manage right. The soil and water conservation offers a lot of incentives to do different things to help soil and drainage. They get a lot of attention with these programs. Looking into offering incentives to landowners for certain deer management tactics would be a good start to more of a well-rounded population and size management. Thank you.

I think these proposed changes will be positive for whitetails in Missouri.

Crossbows should not be allowed, unless they have a disability or a senior citizen.

First I'd like to say thank you for allowing public opinion on this matter. Clearly not all hunters understand the necessity for regulation change based on biological terms and need for stabilized herds but I do hope that MDC is truly listening to us and not just conducting these forums based on protocol. That being said, I'm fine with reducing rifle season to 9 days and I think increasing late youth to 3 days as well as moving it up, is a fantastic idea! Reducing the antlerless portion to 3 days is okay (I'd personally prefer to see it reduced to 5-7 days but agree 12 is too long) BUT I'd like to see the restricted areas lifted. We hunt in Jefferson county, which you know is split, just three miles south of the restricted line. We are not able to hunt the antlerless portion on our farm. Not sure how the determination was made where this line was drawn but we have a very high number of does! I'm a small crops market farmer (with less than 75 acres), we provide an ideal habitat for the deer and they thrive. Bottom land, several good water sources and we inadvertently feed the herd nearly year round just by planting our crops. If we would extinguish the entire herd in a single season, there would be more deer coming in the next year, simply because the habitat is prime. We are not alone, this is the case all along the Big River valley (and its major tributaries). Help us reduce crop damage and manage the herd better by lifting the antlerless restriction in Jefferson county, every little bit helps. As a matter of fact, we encourage the hunters that have permission to hunt our property to take the does during bow and the regular rifle season (they gladly adhere to our wishes) and there is still a very large issue! I honestly have no opinion either way on eliminating the urban portion. On crossbows, I'm all in favor of allowing crossbows during the archery portion. Reducing the number to 1 antlered deer during archery is fine but I don't care for the idea of only allowing 1 antlered deer during both rifle and archery combined. Again, thank you for allowing public opinion on these matters.

I support maintaining the timing of the November portion but oppose reducing the length. I support the proposed changes to the late youth season. I support the proposed changes to the antlerless portion provided the November portion remains the same. I support eliminating the urban zones portion. Absent a State preemption of local ordinances prohibiting the discharge of firearms within city limits it is of little use. I support all proposed changes to archery regulations. I oppose changes to the conservation area regulations. As someone who primarily hunts conservation areas, I have never found area regulations to be hard to understand, and I don't want further restrictions. In addition, I would like to state my opposition to the antler point regulations we have had in effect over the past few years. Not only does it make things more difficult for meat hunters, but at least in Morgan and Miller counties, where I primarily hunt, I have seen little to no difference in the size of the bucks. The situation may be different north of the Missouri where there is a lot of agriculture, but I would suggest eliminating the antler point restrictions in most counties south of the river at the least. In the below poll regarding the cost of a nonresident deer permit, I have selected About Right. I base this on the cost of a nonresident permit in the surrounding states. We are higher than Oklahoma, Arkansas, Tennessee, and Kentucky, in some cases considerably so, but we are lower than Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, and Illinois. Kansas and Illinois are still somewhat reasonable, but given the exorbitant cost of a

nonresident permit in Nebraska and Iowa I would suggest a surcharge for residents of those states.

I really like expanding the late youth season and putting it on Thanksgiving weekend, that will give my son and I better opportunities. I am really excited about allowing crossbows during archery season this will give many of us who are aging more chances to hunt.

Please do not raise the cost of non-resident deer permits. I started deer hunting with my father almost 30 years ago on land that has been in my family for over 50 years (currently owned by my uncle). I grew up in Illinois, but now live in Missouri. My father still lives in Illinois. He is retired with a fixed income. The vindictive raising of non-resident hunting permit costs to get back at neighboring states for their non-resident hunting fees, could end up pricing my father out of continuing to hunt in Missouri.

I would not like to see the price for non-resident deer permits go up. When the I could buy more than one doe permits at a low price I considered the current price a good bargain. Now that I am limited to purchasing only one doe permit it makes the total cost of my hunting trip a lot more for the amount of venison I can harvest. I would be in favor of lowering the price because of the limited doe permits, but would not want to see it go higher.

Shortening the general rifle season by two days: Not in favor. This does not seem like a valid mechanism for influencing total harvest changes. I would be interested to see a day-by-day breakdown of deer harvest during the current 11 day season. To the best of my knowledge, the last two days (a Monday and Tuesday) are usually only hunted by diehards. We are most successful on mature buck harvests during the opening weekend and the last two days of the season. Eliminating this under the "sales pitch" of influencing overall harvest implies a lot of doe hunters hunt that period. I don't believe this to be true. Moving and expanding the late youth season: I'm in favor of this as proposed. Shortening the doe season: Not in favor. This is a "knee jerk" reaction and further limits opportunities for meat hunters and kids to hunt a viable season. Eliminate urban zones: If this does not limit youth hunting opportunities, then this could be a viable option for regulation changes. Crossbow usage: In favor as proposed. Reducing antlerless permits during archery: Not in favor. I manage approximately 2,000 acres of property. Limiting archery doe harvest PREVENTS me and my hunting group from properly managing my deer herd by limiting the ability to manage the doe:buck ratio.

The proposed changes seem fine and support the Department's mission. Policies that I'd like to see addressed are from the perspective of an avid predator hunter. Current regulations require me, after I've concluded my deer season, to then purchase and maintain an UNFILLED firearms deer hunting permit to hunt and call coyotes and predators throughout the November, Alternative methods, and antlerless seasons. This added step of requiring an UNFILLED deer permit is costly and burdensome to those with no intention of filling additional deer permits but would like to participate in the management of Missouri's predator population.

I agree with most of the changes except the 1 buck limit for the archery season. I feel it should stay the way it has been. I don't understand what you are wanting to do with the conservation area regulations.

No to crossbows. I like the idea of Texas of allowing one trophy buck to be harvested and then a management buck for archery. Archery season is too long to only be allowed one buck. I would stop hunting after the first month if that was the case. The main reason I archery hunt is so I can hunt longer throughout the year.

Firearms Season: I support the current timing and have no objection of the 9 day of regular season. Youth portion, I strongly support any increase in opportunity for the youths of our state. Antlerless: As a hunter who feeds his family with venison year round, I strongly disagree with cutting the season to 3 days. I hunt for meat, not antlers. How can I do that with only 3 days? I do not hunt Urban, but a continued reduction in urban areas is the best thing we can do for automobile accident prevention. Archery: Crossbows I don't believe hold any advantage over traditional archer. That's fine with me. Reduction of antlered deer to 1 is OK with me. Conservation Area Regulations: A simplification of regulations sounds great. However, there should be no more restrictions on methods. The most efficient way to hunt and population manage the herd is by firearms. I don't hunt conservation areas for deer because it tends to be a free for all without enough regulation through enforcement.

The late youth portion changes are positive. I fear many people will take advantage of that and say their youth is hunting when really the adult is. Some changes to the wording of the youth regulations to make them more clear about who is to be doing the hunting would be good. The decrease in the antlerless firearms season will make it difficult for people that can only hunt public land. That weekend will be very crowded. I'm disappointed about the urban zones portion. That is the only portion I was able to get a deer during this last season. With so few deer being taken during that portion what is the harm in leaving it?

I currently live in Kansas and have for the last 5 years. I plan on moving back to Missouri in the next couple years. I have always hunted in Missouri and will continue to do so. I think there should be an option for cheaper non resident permits for either adjoining state residents or hunters who have never hunted out of the state or Missouri born hunters. I love the idea of crossbows for archery season and think it will help when I take my kids archery hunting.

First of all let me state that I spend a lot of days in the woods each fall deer hunting; probably more than 95% of your resident hunters. I commented earlier last year and your recent proposed changes directly contradict many of my responses. I have several observations and comments about your proposal and work; I hope I am not limited to a finite number of characters. 1) In my opinion, MDC is largely responsible for the declining deer herd, however, I have not heard them acknowledge that fact. The inordinately high number of deer tags you have issued in the past years is the primary cause of the declining herd, albeit blue tongue has exacerbated the decline. 2) The frequent need to change the deer regs to account for changes in the herd is indicative of poor science in the past. Sound science would account for disease swings, but not substantial over harvest for many years. 3) You say the state's deer population is below desired levels, however, you want to continue to increase the number of bow hunters above the 180K that it currently is by allowing crossbows. To me this is a transparent attempt to increase the number of permits sold and generate more revenue. There are no more tags to be sold other than these

additional bow tags, and potentially non-resident sales. Every resident that wants to deer hunt is already hunting. Additionally, this is a direct contradiction to the stated desire to decrease the harvest of does. As we all know, a crossbow is an easier method to harvest a deer than a compound or recurve. 4) The department already has a means to allow crossbow use. If a person has a physical disability which prevents them from using a compound or recurve, they can get a waiver. So, using this as a reason to allow crossbows is weak. 5) Lastly, bow hunters do not generally want the rules drastically changed or have MDC entice more hunters to be in the woods. As you state, the number of bow hunters has nearly doubled in the last 25 years--we don't need more people brought into the sport by making it easier. Why wasn't the reduction of antlerless tags that bow hunters can purchase brought up as a regulation change? There should be a limit to the number of tags a bow hunter can buy; it should not be limitless as it currently is. Although you will never admit it, I don't ever get the feeling that the department is really intent on taking the comments of the public into consideration. I feel your solicitation is more for show than actual input.

I think the idea of being able to use a crossbow during archery is a good idea. I know there are some people that think it's going to increase the amount of hunters in the woods. And it may. But like anything else people start, if you're not dedicated it's not going to matter what weapon you're using the fad will slow down like anything else newly started. It's a great way for youth hunters to get involved in archery and cut out the whole putting in for special permits. And as for the shortening of season, 2 days isn't going to make a difference. Most deer are killed opening weekend than any other time. And the youth season getting 3 days. My 9 year old loved the idea. I love the idea of killing a monster buck. Who doesn't? Last year my son harvested his first deer. A very nice mature doe. And we couldn't have been happier. Myself I took 2 does and couldn't have been happier. We all watch big name hunters on tv kill huge bucks and dream of having that ourselves. The only time you see them harvest a doe is for the share the harvest program and others like it or call them management deer. I have never looked at any deer I've harvested that away. It's meat in the table for me and my family. Don't have much of an opinion on the urban zone hunting as I have never done it myself. I don't think it needs to go back to a draw system for does only. Maybe just limit the amount an individual can harvest. I would be sad but would adjust. Like the 4 point rule save a few bucks during archery season that seemed to love hanging out by my stand almost every morning. I know the Conservation Department will make the right decisions based on other studies and public info. Keep up the good work.

I support maintain the current timing of the November portion and reduce the length to 9-days. Expand the late youth portion to 3-days beginning the first Friday after Thanksgiving. Reduce the length of the antlerless portion to 3-days and begin on the first Friday in December. I am against eliminate the urban zones portion. I am not against allowing crossbows as a legal method during the archery deer and turkey season. I think it will help the economy side of it as far as sales. I am totally against reducing the limit of antlered deer during the archery season to 1. No not at all. Also, I support limiting methods and use of firearms on the conservation areas, but do not reduce the archery antlerless permits. I would really like to see more restrictions applied to

the non-residents such as, make a drawing system and increasing the prices. I see hundreds of non resident hunters taking over our public areas and leases and have no problem laughing at us on how cheap and easy to come kill our deer herd in the show me state. I watched kill more bucks than the resident hunters over and over. We should apply a lot more rules to non-resident hunters.

Any thoughts given to promoting predator hunting to increase deer herds more rapidly? Can the MDC do more to pressure for Archery Deer hunting within city limits? Will the Four-Point rule apply to the Urban Zone areas after it is removed or will you still be able to harvest smaller bucks? Your logic is that the Urban Harvest is negligible anyway. Any thoughts to having a separate season for Crossbows with a separate permit (lots more revenue for MDC)? Or, allow crossbow during the second part of the Archery season only, for the first couple years? What about a Free Lifetime Hunting License for each MDC District for the hunter that harvests the most coyotes? (Develop a control/count method). Why is it you cannot sell or trade deer meat, but you can sell hides, antlers, feet, mounts? One agent told me it was because you did not want people taking extra deer just to sell. If so, you can take extra deer and sell the hide, feet and antlers, but not meat? Seems outdated. If you are really concerned about managing the deer population and promoting new hunters, then why would you continue to allow non-residents to hunt in Missouri during this period? So is it really about management for us residents that pay taxes all year long or that MDC just wants the money? It is interesting that none of your proposed changes affect your revenue! Are you going to lower the archery permit cost during this period of change?

I do not agree with the crossbow being legal during archery season. It is going to take the challenge out of archery hunting. Also don't feel that it is even considered archery using a cross bow sense they have scopes on them. I do agree with extending youth season to 3 days would like to see more than 3 days though and to keep it on Saturday and Sundays that way kids are not missing school.

In general I support all the changes. However, there are a few comments I would like to make. 1) I am OK with reducing the length of rifle season as long as it spans at least two weekends. 2) Rifle season should be kept in mid to late November. I would not support moving it to December. 3) Expanding the late youth season to the Thanksgiving holidays is a good move. I hope it really does encourage more families to hunt together and mentor their kids. 4) Kudos to MDC for finally having the courage to include crossbows in the archery season. Arguments against including crossbows are exactly the same arguments I heard about compound bows 40 years ago. The world did not end when compound bows were allowed. It will not end with the inclusion of crossbows. 5) One of the main reasons people give for not getting involved in hunting is the complexity of the regs. I applaud any and all efforts to simplify regulations. Here is a thought - eliminate "method specific" permits. Everyone can purchase one antlerless, one buck, and one any deer tag. Use whatever method you want to fill those tags (in the appropriate season of course). Quantity and type of tags could be adjusted in each county to address local population goals. 6) Nonresident landowners owning at least 40 acres should be able to purchase

permits at resident rates, to at least get them at half the cost of normal nonresident cost. Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts.

Disagree with the crossbow for adults, youth and over 65 or disabled would be fine. Disagree with only 1 archery buck tag. Everything else is fine.

Although I like the extended seasons I understand the need to limit harvests to manage our deer resource. I'm also in favor of allowing crossbows for archery season. I think many more hunters will take advantage of the season if they can use a crossbow due to many not being able to hold a draw very long.

My view on the seasons are; Shorten all seasons and do away altogether with the late doe season. Limit the deer you can kill during bow season and do away with numerous doe tags sold during firearms season. When I was a kid (long time ago) we had bucks only season. I would like to see this return until the population gets back up. You could go county by county where the doe population is down. I hunted last year on my farm in Audrain county. I did not see but one doe which I let her live to produce more deer. I and other hunters (mostly family) have killed as high as five deer in one day on my place. But now we are lucky to see one deer during the whole season. As far as allowing cross bows during bow season, H--I yes. I have heard young sportsmen say if they had good shoulders (injured in sports) and if they could use a cross bow while hunting they would bow hunt. It is an old weapon used before guns. They should be allowed.

I moved here in 2000 and I have watched what is going on here. Everything likes to be geared at the trophy hunters and not the people putting food on their tables. I have been hunting for more the 40 years and I saw Maryland, the state I was born and raised in, do the same thing as you are trying to do here, and what it did there was cause more hunting outside the law then anything. Deer are being killed but there are tons on the roadways every year. You want the deer numbers to grow then stop cutting their homes down for houses that sit empty for years. This is just my thinking on this and if you post this comment for others to read and let them comment on it I think you will find I am not the any person thinking this way. All I am saying is the big game hunters may come hunt for deer here but the rest of us hunt all year round so think about were the real money comes from. There was a time when I wanted to be about of MDC but today I am not so sure if I would or not. I wanted to give the hunting safety class and test but the young hunters today will not nothing to hunt for when they are my age because of none hunters making the rules.

No Crossbows. Taking two days off of firearms and offering another sixty days might not be effective. The first people to pick up a crossbow will be firearm hunters. Having hunted with firearms every season I have never taken a shot over 50yds due to rolling terrain or brush. I also hunt with a bow where my personal maximum distance is 30 yds. If I had a scoped weapon lethal out to 50 yds my success rate would be through the roof. Many a nice buck have been spared due to the limitations of a bow. I understand the tradition of the Missouri firearms season, but opening archery season to crossbows will attract the wrong kind of hunter. Also, maybe limit one buck and one doe per hunter per year. I would love to fill a doe tag if my neighbor and the

neighbors extended family did not shoot seven off of one property. Also, another question to consider, is there really any property in Missouri that doesn't get hunted by one method or another? Do we really need more hunting pressure? A positive note, I am overall happy with the hunting I get to do. Thanks.

All of the proposed changes, with the exception of two, aim to reduce harvest. I understand the need for this and think the proposed changes are a great idea except for the use of crossbows during bow season. It seems contradicting that you propose all these regulations to reduce harvest but then allow crossbows to be used during bow season, which will likely increase harvest. Not to mention that I don't believe crossbows have the handicap of a compound, recurve or longbow and should only be used during alternative methods season. I love the idea of expanding youth season. Taking youths hunting is a fantastic experience and is also very important since they are the face of our future. Overall, these changes look great! Keep up the good work!

I don't mind if you shorten the firearms season to 9 days. I would like to be able to use a crossbow during archery season. I would not like you to limit archery season to one antlered deer only. If you do tags should be cheaper. I'm doing good to harvest one deer during the archery season much less 2 antlered deer but, I would like the opportunity to harvest 2 antlered deer to still be available, heck I might get lucky one of these seasons. You don't need to shorten the antlerless season either in my opinion. Thanks.

I agree with a 9 day instead of 11 day season during the November portion. I like the 3 day youth season. I think the antlerless portion should be two consecutive weekends - 4 days total. I have no opinion on the urban zone portion. Crossbows okay. Strongly object to 1 antlered archery deer per season. The point restrictions make archers more selective. Does have already been restricted during rifle season. Deer populations are on the rebound at this time and the MDC needs to make slow calculated adjustments to the rules instead of many drastic changes at one time This is my traditional passion and I don't want the MDC limiting my enjoyment of this sport! Support the changes at the conservation areas.

Yes. There is no doubt about it we have a deer herd problem. I am a bow hunter only. I hunt just about every day. I don't know how many bucks we bow hunters harvest after gun season, but I will guess not many. So why take that 2nd buck from us? To me we need to protect the does. There the one's bringing in the fawns next spring. It's been at least 6 or 7 years since I harvested a buck after gun season, but I sure look forward to having the opportunity. I also bow hunt during gun season. I would rather give up that firearm tag than to give up my 2nd archer buck tag. It keeps me in the woods, half of the joy of hunting is the anticipation of what might happen. Please don't take that away from me. Thanks for listening. T.

I've sadly watched Mo deer quality become drastically worse the last 15 years. We manage a farm in Holliday Mo and are big into habitat and age class. I've watched the neighboring farms slaughter 2 and 3 yr old bucks every yr since they have no chance to a center fire rifle in the middle of the rut. Mo had the genetics and habitat to produce big deer and big money for the conservative. The last two yrs I have been lucky to see one buck or doe in several sits over food

plots with almost no pressure. I and everyone else saw this coming but Mo legislation is too worried about the sale of tags and selling ammo to make a change. Luckily I've now moved to Iowa. The quality is night and day and they still produce more sales money than you. I KNOW this is a waste of time because as you know, Mo is stuck in their ignorant ways. By the way, "youth season" is a joke. It's right at the time bow season gets good and ruins the prerut. So what's left? It's also another time for illegal hunters to kill mature deer with their 223 out the window of their truck. Thanks, if anyone bothers to read this.

A nine day season would be ok. But that is with a 2 day earlier start which would give us more hunting time during the rut season!

Well, here you go again! Over/Mismanagement! And I can prove it just based on this questionnaire! During firearms you want to shorten the season and in the same breath lengthen the youth hunts. Reduce the doe season, and no urban hunting. Then you contradict yourself with archery by talking about allowing crossbows. THEN IN THE NEXT SECTION! "Simplify conservation area regulations by limiting methods and use of firearms and archery antlerless permits". FYI/you're the MDC and you already do that! Are you guys in Jeff City so top heavy that BIOLOGICALLY you have become unable in the field to manage the deer population. I guess my hunting buddies are right CWD is contagious! Look, let's keep this simple "KISS"! Manage the deer numbers (TAGS)(PRICES). Don't put a strangle-hold on SEASON LENGTH! Oh by the way, if a guy wants to BOW HUNT! THEN LET HIM! HE DOESN'T NEED A FRICKEN CROSSBOW! Leave that to the special needs people! Most of your readers were never taught to hunt, i.e. hunting is the act there of pursuit, not shooting, not killing wild game. I support CONSERVATION NOT OVER-REGULATION! I have a good time with a filled/or unfilled deer tag, because it's all about CONSERVATION SUPPORT! Anyway, see you in November in Marcelene! THANKS!

I'm ok with one buck limit. Need to cut days of gun season, more than 2. The numbers of deer are way too low. I am not in favor of crossbow for everyone. If they need them it's one thing then they can get permit for it. That will not help the deer herd. I'm not a fan of the youth season. I started in the normal season and got hooked, all it does is spoil them.

Do what Iowa has done for years! No center fire rifle deer hunting. Move firearm season out of the rut! Make non resident draw for tags only allowing a limited number to hunt. Build the doe numbers back up for a few years until herd numbers are restored. We can be a better trophy buck state than Iowa if manage right!

Change the rifle season to six days. Two weekends consisting of Friday, Saturday and Sunday being the only days to rifle hunt. This will shake up the deer pattern and would limit the game taken by rifle. Leave the archery season alone. Don't penalize those who have spent \$1000's of dollars on bow equipment, stands, and clothing to hunt deer. I've been hunting since I was a baby. Literally mom carried me in a pack on her shoulders deer hunting. I hunt everything with firearms and bows, I love to hunt period. I have taken decent bucks with a rifle, but still haven't taken a big buck with my bow. Why? Simple because bow hunting is a lot harder than walking to the tree line and shooting a deer with a rifle. Please stop this insanity! Leave archery alone

PLEASE! Also, we need to raise the prices on all out of state hunters. I can't go to another state and hunt for less than \$400. So why allow them to come into our state to for chump change. Trust me the people that pay the money have the money to spend. So raise it on them! Also, need to go back to checking game in at the local stores.

This is a joke. You guys are solely responsible for destroying the number of mature deer. Reducing the number of center fire rifle to 9 days!? WOW DON'T GET TO DRASTIC! You need to get rid of it all together and at the very least move it to December. Be serious. Mo has the best habitat and worst conservation in the U.S. good job guys.

I think the proposed plans are exactly right. I do believe the farm tags should be limited as well. I think everyone learned a lesson from the nearly unlimited doe tags that were issued in the past. This hurt the population. Something else that may be overlooked is the tele check method. There is really nothing stopping someone from killing two or three deer for themselves or someone else, boning out the meat, and then checking in only one or two deer for the season. It is easy to figure out and frustrating for the hunters that try to obey the rules. I understand the costs the Conservation Department endured when there were places where you had to physically check in your deer. Maybe this could be considered for the firearms portion of deer season and everything else can stay the same. Overall, I think you guys are on the correct path.

I don't agree with any changes.

To whom it concerns, for the most part I agree with the changes. I don't, however, agree with adding on to the length of the second youth season I don't think there should even be a second youth season. I feel most kids 12 and under should explore archery or some other method of hunting. Missouri has TOO many rifle seasons as it is. I also feel we should get rid of the telecheck system and actually have check in stations again. There are far too many people that don't follow the rules and not having check in stations just helps them not follow the rules. I think the conservation should team up with other states or police forces at least during rifle season to make sure as many people possible are following the rules. I hunt down by Florence Missouri and pretty much know for a fact people don't follow the rules down there. I have found countless bucks that don't meet the antler restriction dead I hear way too many shots before light and after dark even before and after gun season "Poaching". Also I have been hunting or been involved with hunting probably 20-23 years and out of the thousands of trips down by Florence and up by Kirksville I have never been stopped or even SEEN a game warden or conservation agent with a check point or something of that nature. I understand there's only so many agents but I feel Missouri is falling short on enforcing the rules and regulations "seems like the department doesn't care just wants all the deer dead." It is just frustrating when I have minimal land to hunt and am trying to manage it, but deer never reach their potential because other idiots shoot whatever moves and if it's not a legal deer they either won't "call" it in or will just leave it to go to waste since they know they won't get caught and if they don't check it they can keep hunting. I just feel like Missouri should be thought of the same as Kansas or Iowa or even Illinois when it comes to big bucks all of which don't have 20 rifle seasons "not literally just saying" LOL. Again, I know its few against many and appreciate what you all have done just feel

like Missouri could be way better. Thank you and God bless. Sorry to go on a rant nothing personal.

If the conservation department sets the state wide regs then they should apply to the conservation areas. If I buy an any deer permit and I'm allowed to buy an antlerless permit I should be allowed to use both of them on conservation areas. As far as crossbows, we have an alternative season for that and archery hunting is one of the hardest methods to bag a buck. My suggestion is out of state hunters should be allowed only one deer, no matter what method they use, and they should have to choose what method they want to hunt. I also believe that the department needs to look after the resident hunters and not the money that the nonresident bring in. I would pay a little more to see them limited to only one deer and I don't care if a kid is a youth, if he or she is from out of state they are still a non resident. The reduced cost should be to get our resident youth in to hunting and we the hunter and the department should try to put a stop to all of the outfitters leasing up all of the private hunting ground. As for a final note, hunting is as enjoyable as it used to be or should be due to it is becoming a rich man's sport because of the outfitters and we make it way too easy for them to come to our state and hunt for 3 antlered deer.

Don't mind the changes for rifle seasons. Don't like the ideal of 1 less antlered tag during bow season. Don't like the ideal of a crossbows being allowed for anybody during the archery season.

The more I think about the proposed changes the more I can't believe you are probably going to allow crossbows into archery and won't move the rifle season. I can't believe it, crossbows and a November gun season, why even have point restrictions. Do you not see the number of deer killed with crossbows in Ohio? Almost 50,000 just with crossbows, but they have a one buck limit and a December gun season. I don't support crossbows but I really don't support them considering you can't or won't move gun season. Crossbows and guns blazing throughout the rut, awesome. Almost every archery organization is against crossbow inclusion for all, maybe there's a reason for that. None of these proposed regulations are going to help Missouri's deer herd. I know the MDC does a lot of good but sometimes I have to wonder, lot of other people do too including some within the MDC.

I agree with most changes except the 1 buck tag for archery season. I feel the # of hunters who fill both buck tags has to be very low, I don't see how this would make a significant difference in the deer herd population. I am a hunter who likes to still have a buck tag to fill after the firearm season. I would definitely like to see changes in our "Out of state tag" system and pricing to reflect our surrounding states. I feel the "over the counter" tags are just too liberal compared to tax paying full time residents. Overall the MDC is doing a good job, but I do question some of management practices of bulldozing perfectly good trees to open up more land on quail emphasis CA. But I'm glad to see MDC trying to be proactive and make some changes. When changing the CA regulations I hope you look at each area individually, and not just do a blanket coverage of the counties. Thank you.

RE: Proposed 2016-2017 Deer Season changes: If the goal is to increase the herd size AND grow larger bucks, the best approach biologically, is to limit the doe harvest and move the gun season OUT OF THE RUT. Move gun season to December. Look at the surrounding "Big Buck" states.

Kansas, Iowa and Illinois all have gun season in December. 1. I am against the change to (1) buck during archery season. There is NO justification for this change. Per the MDC published data, only .05% of archers take a second buck, so changing this will NOT have an effect on the deer herd. 2. I am against allowing "crossbows" in archery season. As it is, hunters with medical issues can use crossbows. I agree with that. Adding crossbows will increase the harvest, and add to the wounded and un-recovered deer, thereby decreasing the herd size. Crossbows are already allowed during firearms and the alternative season. Leave them there! 3. Our non-resident fees are too LOW. As a resident of Missouri, I have to DRAW a tag in the neighboring states, yet the residents of these same states just walk in and hunt in Missouri. Our tag fee needs to be reciprocal and limited for non-residents. Again, look at the surrounding "Big Buck" states. Kansas, Iowa and Illinois. 4. The youth season change is GREAT. This gives our youth a second chance to hunt, while they are already out of school, and the weather is usually better for the kids. 5. Limiting the antlerless season is a good step in re-growing our herd. Eliminating this portion would be better, but shortening it will help. Ideally, doe season should be BEFORE the rut. This would eliminate the killing of "BRED" does, again re-growing our herd. Thanks, G.C.

I disagree with additional youth season directly after the firearms season, especially since youth are allowed to shoot anything. Look at the number of bucks harvested verse does. They can still hunt during the regular rifle season. I'd rather see the regular firearms season moved back as well. Deer regulations are getting to complicated and first time hunters will get confused and decide not to hunt at all. Deer season is too long as a whole with all the season combined. If youth season is a hunter recruitment tool, then we should focus on small game rather than deer. There needs to be more deer management and population education explaining to hunters how to manage deer population on a small scale so they can understand. For example, if you have 20 deer per square mile and you want to maintain that population you can harvest 4 deer per square mile, that's only 1 deer per 160 acres. I made these numbers up but you get my point, hunters don't understand how they're overharvesting or the neighbor is overharvesting for them. MDC explains management on a statewide scale which means nothing to a landowner, they need to know how harvest numbers affect them on a small scale locally.

If you want to lower the number of deer killed during Gun season, don't open the season on a Saturday open it on Monday like spring turkey season. Taking away the two buck limit for bow hunters will not lower the number of deer killed, how many people kill two bucks with their bow. Moving the youth season sounds like a great idea, wish you had done it a few years back. Also, need to change the rules on conservation ground if you are going to change bow tags to one buck that will mean a lot of hunters will not shoot a doe on public ground. Right now I will not shoot a doe on public ground because I don't want to use one of my buck tags.

I think a lot of hunters would like to see a muzzleloader season before the rifle season, even if it was only a 2 day weekend hunt. As for the 1 deer archer limit, I would prefer to see it stay at 2. As for the alternate season, run it through New Year's day. A lot of people don't get many days off and this would be a great opportunity to hunt. Also, make the Kansas City Parks archery hunts actually fair to be drawn instead of only picking city workers and police officers. There is

no fairness at all to others. Check the results of the successful hunters drawn, you will see a consistent pattern, that the same people are drawn year after year. Make it under state supervision like any other managed hunt to be fair.

What I would love to know is what the goal of the MDC regarding whitetail deer is? My husband and son are avid bow hunters. I myself have hunted in the past but I have younger children which do not allow me the time anymore. However I understand all aspects of hunting living with 2 people that eat sleep and breathe deer hunting. So the question remains, what is your goal? I think that going about this by asking people to comment on changing things without telling them the reason is insane. Do you honestly think that gun hunters are going to say please do move the rifle season out of the rut. NEVER. But if you educate people on why you would even consider this then you are doing your job! I think it would also be beneficial for you to look at the other states that produce record deer and see how they manage their deer populations. I understand that some of these issues are all about the income that the department will get or not get but I also know that it is crazy to think that the people that are supposed to do this for the conservation of Missouri would have that as the main driver of decisions. So my opinion based on the research that I have done is this: Move rifle season. Do not shorten it, MOVE IT. Move it to after the rut. Anyone that hunts in Missouri that cares about the deer population or conservation of deer will still hunt. So you will still get tags purchased. Shortening it and taking away the 2 days that most aren't hunting anyway is doing nothing! Youth season over Thanksgiving works because my kids are going to go hunting no matter what weekend it is. Crossbows as a legal method during archery season, well all I can say to that is that is a way for you to get more revenue. Anyone that is going to purchase a crossbow in place of a compound bow is not really going to add much to the deer numbers. The patience and determination is not there if they are not willing to take the time to do all the preparations of bow hunting. This is just an opinion not anything based on facts. I think it is stupid to allow crossbows, but again, I believe this is about income not hunting. As for limiting the antlered deer to 1 during archery season is this because you are going to approve the crossbow therefore you feel you should penalize the true bow hunters? If you are opening this up to crossbows I can only imagine that this is why you would do that. The reason I say that is because the antlered bucks during the entire archery season is way less than during the 2 weeks of firearms season, but yet you are not considering any reductions for firearms. Bottom line. Give us your goals. Tell the public what/why you are considering these changes. And do what is best for the Missouri deer population not what is best for the MDC's bank account.

Leave the second archery buck alone. Archery should be archery not crossbows! Unless your handicap, hypocritical regarding your pass laws.

I would be in favor of the changes to the firearms season and youth season. Keep the urban portion of the season. Oppose changes to allow crossbows during the archery season. Oppose reducing the antlered deer limit to one during the archery season.

Leave second buck for Archery the way it is. Changes for Youth season & antlerless season are a great idea. I wish these changes would have come about 3-4 yrs ago. I also would like to change the system used to draw for managed hunts. Using a points system or something. I personally

think a lot of quality bowhunters have lost interest in signing up because of the system we use. I have signed up for a managed hunt for the last 4 or 5 yrs without being drawn.

Why eliminate the urban season?

I like what I see so far. What about the alternate methods season? I think our non resident fees should be based on a reciprocal basis. I paid \$345 for a Colorado non resident deer license. Why shouldn't they pay the same in Missouri. I'm in favor of a four point antler restriction state wide. I'm a bow hunter but I do like the one buck archery rule.

I think the regular rifle season's start date should be moved back one week. I also think the 4 point restriction should be state wide. I think there is enough scientific data to support these changes. It will improve our deer herd from a biological stand point, as well as, the hunter experience.

The purpose of archery season is not supposed to be to "get more youth involved." The purpose of archery season is supposed to be an opportunity for people who want to challenge themselves to have a little more time with less pressured animals. Youth season is supposed to be an opportunity to get more youth involved. Unless someone is disabled and unable to draw a compound bow, allowing crossbows during archery season is complete impudence towards the thousands and thousands of Missouri archers who dedicate themselves to the sport.

I like the current 11 day hunt because it gives a person who may need to travel an extra day or two with less hunters in the woods on those Monday and Tuesday combos. If this is about decreasing the number of bucks taken, then have a general point restriction set.

I think the department is on the right track. I do not see any proposed changes that I have an issue with. The length of fire arms season being shortened gives me a little hesitation, but overall I think the number of "hunters" that use the full season is lower than the number that would have a problem with shortening the season. I would like to see the herd size increase, and promote better trophy sized deer in our state. I think these are some very smart ideas, and support them fully.

I feel comfortable in supporting all of the proposed changes. Not really sure why they're not being considered for the upcoming 2015-2016 season.

I am a retired veteran that did 22 1/2 years in the United States Army prior to retiring in Missouri. During my career, I endured multiple extremity injuries that have limited my ability to safely enjoy participating in a sport I truly love, deer hunting, with a compound bow. Thankfully, the state of Missouri looks after its injured veteran hunters by allowing them to apply for a crossbow permit, with a physician's signature and approval. To me this is a privilege that I have earned by way of my military service. To allow a non-disabled individual, fully capable of using a compound bow, the right to use a crossbow as a legal method during the archery deer and turkey season, is a direct slap in the face to all physically disabled hunters that reside in Missouri. If allowed, this will only cause more problems for your disabled hunters, that do not have the opportunity to select which they would RATHER use, compound bow or crossbow, do to their disabilities.

I count on the urban season and extended antlerless seasons to put meat in the freezer. The area I hunt gets other pressure during the regular season making it more difficult to harvest a doe. The landowner prefers that I shoot does to reduce the herd size. My work schedule and caring for my grandsons somewhat control when I hunt. Eliminating the urban season and reducing the antlerless season could have a considerable impact on putting deer in my freezer. We eat venison of some sort on the average of 180-200 days a year.

I believe MDC should start to mimic Iowa and Kansas regulations and season timing. I think this would result in a more age balanced heard along with a better buck to doe ratio.

1. Firearms season timing couldn't be placed at a worse time for Missouri's deer herd, it's right at the peak of the breeding season and is the #1 factor Missouri not reaching it true potential for whitetail deer populations as a whole and an older age structure of antler bucks. The firearms season should be moved later in the year and it would improve things drastically for the entire state. 2. Totally eliminate the antlerless firearms season and keep the last 2 days on the main firearms season. There is no reason that antlerless deer can't be harvested during the regular firearms season instead of making them the only deer targeted during an "outdated" antlerless only season; especially with the reduction in tags that can be filled. 3. Expand the youth season to 3 days for both portions and move the late portion into November or early December (the regular firearms season should be moved later into November before the late youth season is moved there). Allow youths to fill multiple tags the first weekend, what is the reason for not allowing them to shoot multiple deer during the first weekend? Allow youths 2 any deer tags. I personally don't have kids, for the record. 4. Crossbows are not archery equipment and should not be allowed as a legal weapon during the archery season without a medical exemption. Archery season is for vertical hand held bows and no archery organization in the country classifies crossbows as archery equipment. People can already legally hunt using a crossbow for a large portion of the season, punching the easy button is not what archery season is designed for and statistics from other states have shown it doesn't improve hunter recruitment or retention rates. 5. Reducing archery any deer tags to 1 instead of 2 will have little to no effect on the overall population growth or improving the age class of bucks. MDC statistics show that only a tiny percentage of hunters are shooting 2 antlered deer each year and those percentages are even smaller for hunters killing 3 antler deer. Don't try and fix what isn't broke, especially when there is no biological basis for the change, unless MDC knows allowing crossbow during archery is going to significantly increase harvest totals. Which would be another reason not to include them in the regular archery season. Eliminating the 2nd archery any deer tag will significantly reduce the amount of hunting archers do after the regular firearms season is closed. MDC statistics already show a dramatic drop off in the number of days hunted after firearms season by the average hunter and taking an any deer tag away from archers will have a much bigger negative effect on hunter participation than it will have a positive effect on deer populations. 6. Non-Resident tags: Missouri should charge reciprocal rates for all their tags. All NR should be required to purchase a Mo general hunting/small game license regardless of the species they plan to hunt. Other states are doing it all over the country (KS, IA, NE, CO, IL) just to name a few.

Eliminate the fall archery turkey tags on NR licenses and make them an optional purchase and a reduced rate vs. spring turkey tags. Limit NR to 2 archery antlerless tags only (not including managed hunts).

I feel like the number of antlered deer tagged with the 2nd archery tag is way too low of a figure to worry of state-wide herd management. Crossbows should be allowed in firearms season, and the 2nd part of the archery season. All other proposed changes I am on board with.

Reducing the days of rifle season does next to nothing. Most of the deer (including bucks that breed) are shot and killed on the weekends. This seems like a fairly conservative approach that won't do a whole lot to improve herd dynamics and populations but will appease the majority. Moving the rifle season, like many other states, out of the peak of the rut is a much more effective method. I am also unsure as to how reducing bow tags will do anything to help. There are not near enough people that kill 2 bucks, more or less 3, with a bow to make any sort of impact. Move rifle season, leave bow alone, increase restrictions to the out of states that take advantage of our season timing/use of high powered rifles and the population and herd dynamics will improve. Thank you for your time.

I am in support of adding crossbows to archery season methods. Archery is not a religion as some traditional purists seem to want to make it be one. I believe the antlerless season should be ended completely. It could be added again if needed. I am opposed to changing archery to one buck. I would be ok with two buck annual limit, only one with a firearm. Youth season sounds fine. Make non resident pricing reciprocal.

I like most of the proposed changes. I like rifle season where it is, and think antlerless season should be shortened, at least till populations rebound. Inclusion of crossbows in archery season is well past due, and should be done asap. A one buck archery, one buck rifle limit, I have no problem with, but not sure it's really needed. Deer population is controlled by doe kill numbers, not bucks. And, very few archers kill 2 bucks.

I don't like the 1 buck for archery rule, the others I am okay with.

I think there are some benefits and drawbacks to the proposed regulation changes. Reducing firearms seasons to 9 nine days: I honestly find it very hard to believe that a reduction of 2 days will affect the deer population the way the department would like. Especially since the last two days of the season usually don't provide that many harvests for obvious reasons. Yet, it's still 2 more days that hunters with unfilled tags can be in the woods. I do not believe that a season reduction is necessary or helpful. Expanding the youth season: I believe this could be a benefit to introducing youth hunters and would be curious how it would play out. I think this could be a reasonable change. Reducing antlerless season: I see this reduction as extreme. I understand and agree that the deer herd has been greatly minimized in recent years due to the seasons. However, 3 days is simply not enough to hunt. A reduction from 12 days to 7 sounds more sensible. This cuts the season almost in half but still provides hunter opportunity in the field. Archery limit reduction: Given the history of disease in recent years and the current state of the deer herd, I don't see a problem with reduction of archery bucks taken. I hope that this could return to 2 bucks in the future, but I believe a reduction for the current time would be beneficial. Crossbow

legal method: NO NO NO NO NO. Not only does this dramatically change the archery pursuit and skill needed, but it opens up the door to nearly anyone who can crank a handle and pull a trigger to participate in archery season. There are plenty of other ways to aid youth and elderly hunters to bow hunt without using a crossbow. This is NOT the correct approach to aiding the sport.

This last season 2014-2015 found numbers way down. Leaving it up to you bring numbers up.

I strongly support the changes. Maybe a 1 buck total limit all seasons would be better in my opinion.

Charge Nonresidents what it cost a Missourian to hunt in their state. MDC gives out too many landowner permits in my opinion. Allow any one that wants to use a crossbow to archery hunt as it is a lot older than recurves and compound bows.

I would first like to thank the MDC for the work they do and keeping our outdoor heritage on the fore front. I want to first say I am strongly against limiting archery hunters to one antlered deer. I very rarely shoot 2 in a year and many years not even 1. Having said that, if I shoot a buck on September 20 I do not want to be done for the year. The doe population where I hunt is low. I started seeing this before the EHD outbreaks. I choose not to harvest them. I feel the proposals are restricting the archery hunter more than the firearms hunter (I do both by the way). All I see is minimizing a few days of firearms season (regular) which in my opinion won't help that much. Maybe there can be a compromise, 2 antlered deer a year, but only 1 with a firearm. I know it wasn't on the list, but I would like to see regular firearms season moved later in November or even first of December. I applaud MDC for proposing these changes because I feel the deer population is drastically decreasing. My son will soon be able to youth hunt, and I spent days and days in the field without seeing anything. I know young kids will lose interest quickly with very low deer numbers. Thank you. Also, I believe non resident fees should be reciprocal to what we pay to hunt that state.

Shorten firearms season to 9 days AND move it to December. The changes for the youth, urban and antlerless portions are good. Keep crossbows out of archery season and leave the antlered archery quota the same.

Please answer the following 9 questions! 1) Let each MDC rep there know that you are a long-time bowhunter and that you have NEVER been surveyed on this issue. (you may have been as a general deer hunter). 2) Ask them why you haven't been as a bowhunter, and when that might take place? 3) Ask them if they ever surveyed the 10,000 "medically exempt" permit holders to ascertain their Mo success rate, and how did they feel about permitting all able-bodied to use this weapon for the entire archery season. 4) Ask them if they ever intend to survey the 180,000 Archery Permit Holders, (those that have "skin-in-the-game") to find out how this major user group feels about this issue. 5) Ask them if, in the past 40 years, it has been legal to hunt with a crossbow during archery season? (see #7). 6) Then ask them if they know how many days crossbows were legal in the now ended 2014 season? 7) If they say 42 days for youth and 38 days for everyone else, then they are up to snuff. IF THEY DON'T, TELL THEM! Also tell them that 71% of those days ARE DURING ARCHERY SEASON! 8) Ask them if they think

that might be sufficient amount of days for a weapon that has NO USER GROUP? 9) Finally ask them if they think that a healthy, vibrant, highly admired archery deer season that we enjoy in Missouri, should be jeopardized and perhaps subjected to the results of Georgia and Tennessee?

I am for the proposed changes in regards to firearms season. I would, however, eliminate the antlerless season altogether, and put the AR / 4 pt rule into effect statewide. I am for the inclusion of crossbows in archery season. However, I am not for the reducing of 1 antlered deer per season. Again, implement the 4 pt restriction state wide for herd dynamics. I have personally seen/experienced the positive effect it had on the northern portion of the state. Now that I am hunting the southern portion, I would love to see that positive effect.

There is little reason to make the changes in dropping the last two days of season and limiting archers to one buck. Most archers don't take 2 bucks anyway so why limit them their time in the outdoors. Also, dropping the last two days will not save a significant amount of deer and not all people are off weekends and some hunters enjoy hunting when the majority of hunters have left the woods. I feel these changes are not needed and would only take away from opportunities for people to enjoy the outdoors.

I do not want to see a reduction in the Regular Firearms Season days. I for one only get so much time off work to hunt and you're talking about taking out two of the days I get to hunt. We have regular jobs and so do the MAJORITY of your hunters! The only way we can afford to purchase tags and hunting items is to WORK! If we take off work, we don't get paid. SIMPLE. And for the youth season, we don't need to extend it. I see TOO MANY little kids that cannot even hold a gun shooting these huge wall hangers! YOU need to bring back the live check in! Kids under pressure cannot lie about having their adults shoot the deer! I would never even consider it and it's getting carried away! I have two kids of my own who have participated in the youth season regularly. My youngest let the biggest deer I have ever seen walk by because he was so nervous and couldn't shoot. Come on! These 5-6 yr old kids are not doing it people, GET REAL! Two day youth season is plenty. I wasn't in favor of the 4 point restriction at first but I do see an increase in the size of deer where we are hunting. BUT if you want youth involved then let them shoot any deer (regardless of points) up to a certain age during regular season too. I really think you need to bring back the live check in places for deer season. There is too many things getting by without it. It's ruining the hunt.

I'm in favor of all the Firearms Season Changes. I'm against both of the proposed Archery Season Changes. I don't know of very many people actually harvesting two bucks, but it's nice to always have that option. I would not be opposed to paying for a second archery buck tag. Crossbows simply don't belong in the Archery season. I think it's going to bring in a crop of hunters who are going to think crossbows are this simple easy button and they'll get out there with a complete disregard for the deer, other hunters and the sport in general. I think it puts an undesirable element of hunters in the woods for 4 months that were previously limited to a couple weeks.

I suggest leaving the regular season ending on Tuesday. There are a lot public land hunters who will not hunt weekends and rely on those last couple days. Additionally, more and more people are working weekends now.

agree with everything EXCEPT the one buck for bowhunters, totally unnecessary.

I agree that changes need to be made regarding the Missouri deer herd, more specifically, where I hunt in Linn and Chariton Counties. I am an avid bow hunter, and have been for 22 years. I also enjoy rifle season, and with children getting to that age am excited for them to take up the sport. I try and be realistic about the deer hunting we have in the state, and I see ways of improving the deer herd that the Conservation has addressed, as well as areas that have not been addressed openly. 1.) A 1 buck limit with a bow is fine with me. I am to the point that I do not shoot a buck unless he is going on the wall, and unfortunately that doesn't come around as often as sometimes I would like. I do not see this making a large impact to the overall goal. I am uncertain of the percentages, but I would suspect that it is not common for hunters to fill (2) buck tags with archery tackle. I am all for it, as I would love to see an older age class of bucks not only in the areas I hunt, but statewide. 2.) I have hunted long enough to see the ups and downs of the deer numbers where I hunt, but in the past 3-4 years I have seen a steady decline in numbers. Part of this sharp decline is due to the EHD outbreak of 2012 and 2013. However, I strongly believe that in its effort to control deer numbers, the Conservation has gone too far with the limitless doe tags available to hunters. Again, most people do not shoot more than 2-3 deer per season, but there are those that still "shoot" more so than "hunt". You can hear it every year on opening weekend, the sound of world war 3. For instance, I run trail cameras (9) each year on the farms we hunt. We keep track of every buck that we see, file each picture in a folder and keep tabs on them, but we also pay attention to the number of does that we are seeing. This past year, on a 352 acre farm, comprised of 65 acres of timber/timbered ditches and the rest corn/bean fields, we had 4 does on our property. I understand that there may have been 6, but to the best of our ability, we could differentiate 4 of them. There is no earthly reason that numbers should be that low. I bow hunted 23 days, rifle hunted 3 days, and used a muzzle loader for 3 days. I saw a grand total of 47 deer. Many of these were repeat appearances from the same does, as well as the same 1-1/2 year old bucks. We TRY to manage our farms by not shooting too many does (if applicable) and only shooting mature bucks (we consider 4-1/2 and older to be mature). The problem we are having is that we are not seeing an increase in doe numbers or mature bucks, 5 years after implementing our practices. In my mind, we need to enact a bucks only season similar to what Missouri used to have. This is not a long term solution, but this would help in getting numbers back up to par. This, in combination with keeping antler restrictions in effect would increase deer numbers as well as the age structure in Missouri. 3.) This is a question: How does the Conservation account for the deer that go unchecked? Just 2 seasons ago, we found (6) does that had been killed and dumped off of a bridge near where we hunt. Obviously there were no tags on the deer, so I assume that they were not tagged in. I am sure that this occurs all of the time, and I also assume that you have a way of factoring that in to the final deer kill totals as well as the herd population. 4.) I recently went shed hunting in Iowa and was amazed at the deer numbers that we

spooked or jumped up while walking the various farms. Not only the quantity, but also the quality of deer. It is no secret, Iowa, as well as Kansas and Illinois are known as Super States when it comes to deer hunting. Why can't we be in that mix? We have the same if not better habitat, and a vast array of food sources. Specifically, I am talking about the North Central region where I hunt, but it also applies to the entire northern part of the state as well as pockets all of the state. In my mind it can be done by implementing the following, or some of the following: 1. Take center fire rifles out and mandate either shotguns or muzzle loaders. It would decrease the number of wounded deer due to being hit while running or at 400 yards. Don't get me wrong, some people are very good at long range shooting or running targets, but most people are wasting their time and possibly wounding deer that they have no idea if they hit or not.

2. Please move the general season back. I understand the fact that it gets colder and that could affect hunter participation, but it couldn't effect it that much. The peak of the rut is not ideal for those in the management community. I understand that not everyone wants to kill a "Booner", or even care about the carrying capacity of the ground they hunt and consequently the number of deer they harvest. There is not a one-sized fits all answer. 3. As I previously stated, I am the father of two children that will be of hunting age before too long, so I am not anti-youth hunters. That being said, isn't a single youth season enough? I do not like the fact that from the 1st of November all the way through the 1st of January, there is an opportunity to kill a deer with a fire arm of some sort. Keep the 1st youth season, or keep the late season, but not both. 4. I love the idea of shortening the antlerless only season. There are not enough deer (does) to warrant as many opportunities as we are given to harvest a doe with a rifle. I agree with the legalization of the crossbow. As my father gets older, it is harder for him to draw his bow back and maneuver around in a stand. Crossbow legalization will allow him and others in his position to pursue their passion. In conclusion, I admire the effort you guys put in to the deer herd. I understand that there is not a "Right" answer. I believe that be tweaking things a little, that we can have a better age structure, more deer, and this would all lead to more revenue for the state. I think you would be amazed at the number of people that choose to hunt out of state with outfitters for the chance to kill a monster buck. If we make a few changes, people would be opting to come to Missouri for our deer.

I agree with other changes listed, except we could: 1) Keep Antlerless portion and reduce its length to 9-days (including 4 weekend days). 2) Do NOT allow crossbows as a legal method, or at least in most Archery season.

The price that other states charge for non resident deer hunting permits is what Missouri should charge.

First a question is there still going to be a 4 point restriction? I'm okay with 9 days for firearms season. Why not go back to the draw system for firearms any deer permits, or better yet, just do bucks only for a couple of years. Bag limit of 1 for firearms season. Youth season, I'm okay with the purposed changes. I wouldn't mind going without an antlerless tag for a couple of years. If it would really get the heard number back up. I think leave archery season alone. Not many actually kill 2 bucks.

I do not like the idea of allowing a crossbow as a legal method in archery season unless you are a youth or handicapped. Also, I think we should move the rifle season back a week or two instead of cutting days. Everything else looks great please keep up the good work.

I don't think you should allow crossbows during archery season. Don't eliminate urban archery. Also, don't reduce archery bucks to 1. Keep it at two. Thank you for all the MDC does to maintain conservation in this beautiful state.

I think all these changes would be great and that people would be more selective when shooting a buck with a bow.

Crossbows are NOT archery and need to be left out of archery seasons. A one buck limit is a good idea.

Against one buck rule. Against full crossbow inclusion into archery season. For antler point restriction, for more intense monitoring for CWD, for a slightly later start of firearms season-no earlier than Nov 8. For reduced tag limits for antlerless deer as dictated by deer numbers.

How about actually making some real changes that are biologically sound and will do some real good for the long term stability of what's left of our deer herd! I have lost track of how many times you have meetings asking for input, all so you can pat yourselves on the back, then turn around and say "well the deer hunters just don't want us to change anything so we will leave it the way it is"! The 4 point rule is a joke, it does no good whatsoever, only makes more of the young deer fair game, "high grading" the young bucks. The reduction in antlerless tags this past year was an even bigger joke and waste of time. We killed 1580 less does this year than in 2013, it should have been 10-20K less or more. The loophole that allows hunters to buy antlerless tags in multiple counties and keep on hunting defeats the purpose. One tag should mean 1 tag, that's it! You have no real idea of how many deer are killed in what county or how many never get called in at all. Telecheck is another joke. The only hope I came away with was meeting a man by the name of J.D. from the KC area, I attended the Burr Oaks meeting. He's one of a few that realizes the deer hunting public has evolved and what MDC is doing needs to change. This is 2015 not 1975, and J. gets it, and I hope he will someday replace that arrogant know it all J.S. among others. The season reductions, archery tag reduction, addition of youth days, and crossbows being legal will be a wash. We will see no real change in the harvest numbers, it's just a chess game moving this to that, but go ahead and do something new by all means. I will hope for the best and expect to be disappointed once again. Tag cost should be raised for residents and non-residents, they are too cheap across the board, again look at our neighboring states.

I agree with limiting the number of antlered deer to one for archery season.

Ideally, we would move firearms season back to a later date. If that's not an option (presumably because rifle hunters are against it and they outnumber skilled hunters), then clearly we should shorten the season. As for limiting the amount of bucks archers take, I hope this is a joke. Limiting rifle hunting would only help things, whereas limiting the amount of bucks archers could take would only hurt the deer population. Clearly, archery hunters put much more effort into quality deer management. We do so because we have to. We have to get deer close, and

need to have ideal land for doing so. More button bucks and small bucks are killed with rifles because it's so easy to kill one at a distance that's too far away to ascertain the size of antlers. Conversely, archery requires being within 50 yards or so, a distance at which it is much easier to know what you're shooting. So if you care at all about growing mature bucks, you'd limit the amount of rifle hunting and increase the amount of archery hunting. Look at Iowa and Kansas. When does Kansas' rifle season start? December. What does Iowa hunt with? Not center fire rifles, but shotguns. How do their deer compare to Missouri's? There's a reason we have over the counter tags. We could charge much more than \$225 for out of state tags if we modeled our program off of theirs. If you limit the amount of bucks archers can take, it will logically increase the amount of out of state tags purchased in Kansas and Iowa. DIY hunting is increasing in popularity, and it only makes sense. Crossbows don't matter to me much. In fact, the trigger hunters would probably take that as a consolation prize for limiting the firearms season. Finally, it makes a lot more sense to manage deer on a regional level than it does a state level. What the deer herd needs in the Ozarks is a lot different than what the deer need where I hunt by Princeton. So why do we have the same regulations? It's like replacing I-70 with a dirt road. Dirt roads are fine in less populated areas, but wouldn't be great for an interstate.

I'm a resident hunter and have been hunting deer since I was 10 which has been 23 years now. I primarily only hunt archery season now but always support the MDC and buy a rifle tag and may hunt a day or two with my rifle. Our rifle season has become way to overpopulated with hunters and in most cases the deer hunting is awful just after the conclusion of the season due to the pressure it puts on the deer. We have far too many out of state hunters and it is leaving a bad taste in MO residents mouths. Make them draw, even if it's a guaranteed draw like Kansas, make them plan or work for it. \$225 is almost half of what I would have to pay to hunt Iowa, and Kansas charges \$375, so the statement saying that our out of state tags is competitive is false. Up the price to \$450 and yes you may lose half the amount of hunters but still make the same revenue on tags. It's win/win for the MDC and residents. I don't agree with keeping the rifle season in the same time but shortening it would be fine. I think we would have far more mature deer if the rifle season was moved to DEC 1st. Our management practices are inferior to that of Kansas and Iowa and neither of them allow any type of firearms season during the peak of the rut when deer movement is high. We have the genetics, we don't have the age structure. Move the rifle season two weeks later and you will have far fewer young bucks cruising looking for that one doe the isn't locked down with a mature buck. I know this will fall on deaf ears and unfortunately I have a meeting scheduled out of town on the 31st so I won't be able to attend the meeting in St Joe, but if anyone from MDC would like to call me to discuss my cell is *. We can keep doing the same old things that MO has been doing for years and not see any difference or we can make some real changes and have a healthier more mature herd. It's time the MDC start thinking with residents in mind and not the almighty dollar they get when selling the out of state tags.

I agree with all recommendations. I especially like extending youth season and allowing crossbows during archery season.

Please do not eliminate the urban zones portion. There are still many areas outside of city limits that are utilized during this hunting portion. It will also give some youth an extra chance to get out and hunt even though it isn't specifically "youth" hunt. I agree that the open firearm season and antlerless seasons should be separated. This gives the deer a chance to get back into regular patterns and recover from the stress of the open season.

I think you guys are on the right track with your new rules. I am all for a 1 deer per bow and 1 per rifle. That is plenty fair. I don't think that the season should be moved back like Iowa. I know a lot of people want it that way but being a nonresident Iowa is the most unfriendly state to hunt it. That being said, I hope that you keep your nonresident license the same price. I am sure all the residence want it higher to keep us nonresidents out but we hunt private land that we own and don't bother anyone else. Here is a key reason why I don't think you should raise the nonresident price. I have multiple friends that will come down with me and hunt just one weekend. If the price gets any higher they will not buy a license to hunt just a weekend. I do think the turkey license is a little high. I don't buy a license for that reason. If they were under \$100 I would probably buy one and hunt your season. I hope that you keep it fairly easy for us nonresident hunters to come there and hunt. I am just an average Joe auto mechanic that loves to deer hunt and bought some land in your state to ensure I will always have a place to hunt as well as my kids. Please keep that in mind. Thanks for the great deer hunting opportunities and I hope you keep them coming.

Bring back check in stations in the CWD zone and test all the deer killed during the season for CWD. You guys have no idea what's out there, until you do.

The season should be 60 days open Nov. close Dec. You should be able to control harvest numbers with whatever tags you allow us. 1 buck 1 doe is fine by me. Antler restriction is fine with me. This will give you the harvest numbers you want and hold hunter retention. For example, I work out of state for all of November last year and off in Dec. missed about all of antlerless portion, I don't bow hunt but like to gun or blackpowder. I mainly duck hunt but like to put a few deer in the freezer. Opportunity is lacking in this state, unless you can take a week off work for your short gun and poorly timed alternative method. 60 day season would allow people more time and opportunities and you can limit harvest numbers. As for small game hunters, I enjoy it also, however, I grew up in Louisiana where deer season (gun) was long and never had a problem squirrel hunting with deer hunters in the woods. Hunters run into hunters, it just happens whether deer hunters come upon small game hunters or other deer hunters. I am in favor of cross bows, not that I want to use one but others might. Bow season starts way to early I think. NOT EVERYONE LIKES TO BOW HUNT. In short, limiting days to hunt limits opportunity. To retain hunters season needs to be lengthen. Harvest will not be affected, you tell us what you want killed already don't you? I use to kill 2 deer every year. Took 0 deer last two years because no time to hunt except an afternoon or something been busy. Oh, I'm all for kids hunting. I use to take kids, not just mine to the woods every year. One weekend before the season is plenty good for youth season for any game. It gives them the best opportunity. Well there you go, a little of my input. Not that anybody reading this gives a hoot. Thanks.

I support all the proposed changes EXCEPT allowing crossbows during archery and turkey season.
I don't think crossbow should be allowed during archery season, unless you have a physical disability.
Archery equipment should be defined as implements that are held by hand, drawn by hand and released by the motion of the hand in the presence of game. If you are shooting a crossbow, you are not drawing the string in the presence of game. That alone gives crossbow shooters an unfair advantage. Not to mention you do not have to get as close with a crossbow. Crossbows make sense in areas where deer population is booming. (Residential/suburban/problematic areas). I am super confused as what the goal is here. As I read the goal of MDC to increase deer population, with restricting the firearms portion from 9 to 11 days. That's fine. But then why add a day to the youth portion and then add crossbows into archery? This seems counterproductive. Questions to consider: If you legalize crossbows, will you need new BLAZE orange requirements during this season? Will you increase the deer population with more crossbow hunters hunting for 4 months with more tags? (I say NO). Why not consider a longer firearms portion with stricter harvesting rules? Consider a draw or lottery system? I think we should be pushing for land accessibility from private land owners who want a tax break in return.
I like most of the changes, but I don't think crossbows should be allowed in the archery portion just to medical exempt people. I think the MDC is doing a great job at managing the deer and turkey. Thank you for your all efforts.
I believe the proposed changes to the Missouri deer season will help revenue and the deer population.
I'm opposed to the proposed change that would allow crossbows during the archery deer season. My reason is simple. Our archery season allows a person with a medical exemption today to use crossbows. Let's not attempt to fix something that isn't broken. I'm also opposed to the proposed change to limit the number of bucks to one on any archery tag. I would be in favor of a statewide 4 point restriction for all legal weapons.
I am in support of the Department of Conservation reducing the gun season to 9 days. As a hunter of other game, I have concerns that the deer seasons are too long and many are relegated to enjoying outdoor activities after the weather has turned bad for the winter. I trust that the Missouri Department of Conservation will use sound biological practices to come up with a plan that not all will be happy with, but that will serve the state in the long term. I have no opinion on the other proposed changes. Thanks for your time. C.T.
Firearms Season Changes • Maintain the current timing of the November portion and reduce the length to 9-days - I dislike the idea of reducing the timing. I believe few hunters are in the woods the last few days of the season, but it is a great opportunity to get out while it is less crowded. Statistically the number of deer killed on those last two days is nominal. It seems this is just a poor attempt to appease the hunters that believe too many deer are killed and the actual result of the action will be a minimal impact while reducing opportunities for the rifle hunter. • Expand

the late youth portion to 3-days beginning the first Friday after Thanksgiving - I like this idea and I hope it helps to get more youth afield. • Reduce the length of the antlerless portion to 3-days and begin on the first Friday in December - I agree there is too much time for the antlerless season. I am not opposed to a reduction. • Eliminate the urban zones portion - No opinion. Archery Season Changes: • Allow crossbows as a legal method during the archery deer and turkey season - I am strongly against this, for those who need the crossbow, there currently is a process to follow. For those who do not qualify but wish to hunt with a crossbow there are plenty of season that allow the hunter to do so. You may receive more support if it was not 100% inclusion. Possibly allow certain weeks throughout the archery season. • Reduce the limit of antlered deer during the archery season to 1- I am very strongly against this. Again, the statistics show the number of hunters harvesting more than one buck in an archery season is nominal, a change like this will result in a minimal changes to herd dynamics and population but will greatly limit opportunities for archers to be afield.

Not sure archery buck reduction will really accomplish anything. Maybe limiting antlerless tags to two or three per person across the season would help. Crossbows should be allowed in all gun seasons and hunters over 55 with that they already have 38 days to hunt crossbows and also for turkey season fall and spring why can I use a vertical bow or a shotgun but not a crossbow? Makes no sense. Definitely continue to monitor doe harvest.

Non-Med-Exempt Crossbow users have had 38 days to hunt deer in Missouri for YEARS! 70% of those days are during archery season. You have never published that. Folks think that these gun-like weapons can never be used, unless you have a physical disability. Until the populous is aware of the 38 days, your inaccurate survey questions and statements saying crossbows are illegal, will continue to result in invalid surveys. Read the 2014 comments and this point is well proven. MDC should also publicize that youth have 42 days! In Penn. for every antlered buck taken by true archers, 4.7 were taken by these "gun-like" weapons! Not good for PA! Not good for Mo. Georgia and Tennessee are two experiments gone bad. Don't add Missouri to the list. The risk is too great for what is held to be the finest whitetail archery season in the Nation.

I was young when multiple antlerless tags were allowed, and when the antlerless portion was started. But if memory serves me right, both of these changes were done to bring the deer population under control. I would purpose the following. (1) Limiting of tags to 1 any deer & 1 antlerless per hunter for firearms, and 1 any deer and 1 antlerless for archery. (2) The total removal of the antlerless portion of the season. (3) No changes to the current archery, firearms, and youth portion length. I believe adding crossbows as a legal method during archery season, and extending the youth portion will only work against the other purposed changes and hurt the deer population. I think these changes would not only help to bring the population back to where it needs to be but it would be the least complicated for hunters to understand. Thank you for your time and consideration. T.S.

I am a bow hunter, not an archery hunter, so the use of a crossbow should not be allowed unless you are handicapped. It's a gun with an arrow . I treat every deer I kill as a trophy, bow hunters are not killing too many deer. It is the fathers of six year old kids who I see killing deer with

guns they cannot pick up, so great idea, give their dads another buck tag at a peak hunting time. Two buck thing is fine for honest bow hunter. You cannot tell what one who is not is checking in on the phone or on line. You have zero enforcement of what someone kills.

I would like to see the antlered deer in bow season to stay at two.

I agree with the first three firearm season changes and have no comment on the urban zones change. I am against making crossbows legal for everybody for archery season. I support disabled persons being able to use them and would be perfectly fine if

I disagree with most of these changes, except shortening the firearms season: If you want to preserve mature bucks, look at Iowa, Kansas and Illinois for example regulations. Please do not limit bow hunters to just one buck. Too much time, investment and money goes into our private farm to stop hunting so early. We need freedom to manage our herd. Let crossbows be used, but NOT during archery season. Have a separate crossbow season(s). Do not provide TWO youth seasons in Nov.

I am ok with most of the changes if it's the best for the deer herd. However, I do not like allowing crossbows. I feel it makes archery to easy. But if it were up to me I wouldn't allow inline muzzleloaders either. I am also still concerned about the 4 point restriction. I believe it's putting too much stress on the older bucks. If someone wants to shoot a young buck, let them, then the older ones won't be the only ones being harvested.

I'd like to see the crossbow part of archery only for under 16 and over 60 yrs and any age for disabled with certification of disability.

Keep the firearms season the same length as present. I enjoy the last Monday and Tuesday.

I agree with all your proposed changes. I hunt 3 main areas south of Sedalia & Cole Camp. I'm very concerned about the deer and turkey population. I've hunted the private land across Lake Creek, with Kahrs Boger being to the west of me. There are very few deer there and I believe there should be NO firearms hunting in Kahrs Boger. Two years ago I hunted the private land extensively and only saw 2 does and a yearling. I didn't shoot them. At its peak I'd see 20 a day in that area. Also, the turkey population is way down. This past season there were a few more, but I shot none as I want them to repopulate. I see way too many dogs running loose in the woods all year round. Needs to be a regulation to stop that. I have pictures of them on camera. When I lived in MN they had regs against dogs running loose. Hunters were to shoot them on sight. Check with MN to see what their current dog regs are. Thank for trying to repopulate the deer and turkey. I'm trying to do my part with food plots etc.

I feel the MDC have done a very good job managing the deer population in Missouri. I am a seasoned deer hunter (archery & firearm) for 45 years. I am against the proposed change to allow crossbow use during the archery season. I feel the current program allowing a hunter with proof of medical/physical restrictions to obtain a 'special permit' to use a crossbow during archery season is working well and does not need changing. The crossbow is similar to shooting a rifle, shotgun and muzzleloader. The non-resident fee should be at least the same as the hunters home residence state.

I do not agree with opening up the Archery season for crossbows. The only individuals that should be able to use a crossbow is someone with a disability that requires one and is justified in the use and that already happens. If someone wants to bow hunt, than they should use a bow. Archery season is a time for skill and finesse not just pulling a trigger. No Crossbows! My opinion.

I do not think you should shorten the length of the deer season in any way including eliminating urban deer season. I think that some of the proposed changes will contribute to financial loss for the Missouri economy and will severely impact the Share the Harvest donations. Less season dates could easily lead to less hunting lease prices and less donations for Share the Harvest. I support what MDC does and want to wish the Department a prosperous future! Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts.

Once again the Department has dropped the ball. Missouri's number one problem in regards to deer hunting is pressure. That comes in various forms but the majority of it comes from hunting pressure and not one of the proposed changes address this issue. I agree that changes are in order but until the department puts the health and quality of the deer herd above a other goals, I cannot and will not support them. I will also encourage others to do the same. The bottom line is that Firearms season has to be moved out of the rut, broken up into a few short periods or a 1 buck limit per year (no matter the means) need to be adopted to help alleviate some of the intense pressure that is put on the deer herd for such an extended period of time. I am sure I am wasting my time but just know I will not be buying any deer tags until this issue gets addressed!

All the above.

I hunt mainly with a crossbow. I hope you change to allow crossbow use with a regular archery license; I have friends in Missouri and I'd like to come down and hunt with them sometime.

No on the youth after Thanksgiving. Any thought on how that limits coon hunters, predator hunters, and small game hunters? I hunt other game besides just deer. Take some consideration into the fact not all folks just DEER HUNT. I think non resident permits should be reciprocal of the non residents state. I also think archery hunters should not be given more permits then gun hunters. In fact I think they should have to decide which way they want to use their tag. One Buck one doe for all MO resident, your choice use them during firearms or bow up to you.

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I do not think crossbows should be allowed during bow season, they are the same as short range rifle, you can steady them with shooting sticks put scopes on them. I just don't feel that they would have the sportsman ship that bow hunting was intended for. Thank you.

It would be good to shorten the antlerless season and limit the number of antlerless tags sold and reduce deer taken in the archery season.

I do not agree with the legalization of crossbows across the board. I think the current system for crossbow use is great (special permit required). I think it will hurt the deer population and also believe that there will be more injured deer as a result. If a person needs to use a crossbow because of medical issues than that's great, if not than they should have to use a compound, recurve, longbow, etc. There are a couple firearms and muzzleloader seasons to take advantage of if one does not want to use the current archery methods. With the deer herd on the decline, I don't think that this is a good time to add more weapon choices. I also don't agree with changing the number of antlered deer allowed during archery season. Firearm season is going to make the biggest impact on the deer herd, therefor I believe that's where the changes need to be made. Maybe earn a buck? Thanks for your time.

Move the early youth season to early October to give woods time to recover before rifle season. Only allow crossbows for people over 65 or with a Dr.'s note during archery season. Reduce rifle season length to 9 days total. Increase fines for poaching. Move deer season a week later. Make the season with a break in the middle to give time for deer herd to settle down after the first hunt. Educate all Mo hunters about latest research and MDC objectives (don't just regulate, educate) Oklahoma had great success with education of hunters. Encourage hunters to enter hunt observation data through an online system. Gather more age and measurement data on harvested deer. (from the QDMA report we are one of the few states that does not collect detailed harvest data). Share harvest trends with data on a x/sq. mile basis. Does/yearlings/fawns/bucks by age class (educate hunters on jaw bone aging). Share MDC objectives by county with hunters online Allow predator trapping through May. Allow Cooperative to set their own harvest plan with approval by MDC.

I agree with the changes you have proposed. I feel shortening firearm season will help increase deer population. I think lengthening youth season and changing the time will help to introduce more youngsters to our sport. I have wondered through the years why crossbows were not legal in Missouri. It is an archery method neighboring states have allowed it for years. I think it would draw youngsters, more women, and allow the older generation to hunt a few more years. I also feel that retrieval rate would be higher if crossbows were allowed. I rifle hunt in eastern Oregon co. in the Irish wilderness area and I was glad to see the reduction of antlerless permits in this area. I feel the population has been drastically reduced to a real low because of the unlimited antlerless permit. Would like to have seen the change sooner. I feel that even two antlerless permits per hunter may still be one to many, at least until the herd reaches stronger numbers. I think the MDC does a good job managing wildlife I know the department walks a tight rope trying to do what's right for our wildlife and trying to satisfy the sportsman of Missouri. Keep up the good work. Thanks.

My answer is lengthy because I feel the reasons for my opinions will give them more credibility. I own a 495 acre working grain farm in Pike county, my backyard in St. Louis county is very rural and almost backs to the northern section of Rockwood Reservation, and I am an avid Mo

deer hunter and have been participating in the annual bowhunter survey (from Columbia) since 1982. I hope that my opinion counts! 1) I oppose the season reduction to 9 days mostly for the guest hunters at my farm. My son, like most other fellow dealership mechanics, must work 2 out of 3 Saturdays year-round. My Son-in-Law is a paramedic firefighter, and like his fellow workers, works 48hrs. on and 96 hrs off. Their shift ends at 7:30 AM, so firefighters miss 2 1/2 hunting days per shift worked. Both young men miss a lot of "opening days" or work that last weekend. If they miss these hunts, they usually value those last 2 days of season, the Monday and Tuesday. My barber feels the same way, he works every Saturday so has Sunday and Monday off. If you cut out the Monday and Tuesday end-of season hunts all persons in these 3 trades miss out. 2) Changes to Youth season are fine with me, however, I feel the minimum age for Youth Hunters should be 8 yrs old to discourage dads from making the shot illegally for the kids. 3) I oppose reducing Antlerless season to 3 days for the same reason stated in opinion #1. Again, all 3 occupations could miss part or all of this special season. We should restrict the number of doe tags sold rather than shortening the season. I'll continue this thought by stating that our non-resident tags are too cheap, especially as compared to IL and KA. If we need to reduce doe harvest, raise the non-resident price and reduce their participation rather than penalizing our Mo residents. 4) Eliminate the Urban special open doe hunts. My 3 hunter friends and I out here in the fringe St. Louis suburbs all have seen an alarming drop in the number of deer we encounter in this "Urban zone" in the last 2-3 years. 5) Do not include crossbow as allowed archery equipment. I feel that it is not in the true spirit of that season and that it will encourage poaching. I agree with special considerations given to those with proven physical and senior age limitations. 6) I agree with the 1 antlered buck for Archery and 1 antlered buck for firearms season. I also believe the 4 point rule should be in effect for the entire state. I have encouraged this on my farm since before it was law, and I know we are harvesting the rewards of this system with increased quality of bucks. I also strongly discourage my guests from harvesting button bucks, even though they are counted as legal does. 7) For the record, I commend the MO Dept of Conservation for their efforts to contain CWD. I am very pleased that they have successfully pushed stronger regulations on captive deer. I would love to see elimination of all confinements of deer in Mo someday. In the meantime, regulate the h--l out of them. 8) I think the Mo deer herd is at the perfect level in Pike County, but possibly down in size from target numbers in other counties. I think that you should restrict sales of bonus tags and non-resident tags to boost the herd numbers. However, agents should have the power to issue nuisance tags to farm landowners such as myself, if substantial crop damage is occurring and there are areas of larger than normal deer numbers proven. 9) I feel that poaching has increased since Telecheck came into use, but I realize that we will probably never see a return to the old check-in system where poachers could not use the "honor system" to check deer.

As a student, when deer season comes around I drop everything I'm doing to get out in the my grandma's back forty for rifle season. I understand fully about pushing the season back a week, but the selfish side of me says no because I go up to Maine for the week of thanksgiving to hunt up there. But if it needs to be done, do it. I love my local deer herd too much for this decline to

affect the whole state. I also agree with the crossbow regulation as to add it to archery season. It'd give me so much more opportunities to hunt on my parents 5 acres when I get off school on the weekends. I agree with the limiting of antlerless season too, as long as it's on a weekend. Plus I think urban "firearms" portion was somewhat useless and it's a great thing that it's planned to be abolished. Thanks for listening and I can't wait for the changes! –J.E.

I would agree with the proposed changes.

Hello, I hold the MDC in very high regard. As such, I am confident that the proposed changes to the deer season length and archery buck limits were arrived at after exhaustive research. However, as a bow hunter, I am very concerned about opening archery season to crossbow hunting. While I appreciate the MDC's desire to encourage greater participation in hunting, I feel strongly that the current regulations do more than enough. As a state we afford hunters more opportunities to participate in deer hunting than most others. We have no caliber restrictions for centerfire firearms, we allow air rifles, atlats, crossbows, etc. Getting involved with hunting couldn't be easier in the state of Missouri. If it is an attempt to draw more archery hunters, why not hold more workshops and seminars introducing archery to those interested? Today's compound bows are more user friendly than ever. While they still take practice to become proficient, the learning curve has been greatly reduced. In an effort to make bows available to those unable to buy them set up a system like this: Allow archery hunters to donate their used bows to the MDC in exchange for a lifetime hunting permit. I recently sold a bow that was still in excellent/functioning condition to upgrade to something new. However, I would have gladly donated this bow to the state in exchange for one of the lifetime hunting/fishing permits. It is my understanding that some of the rules and regulations regarding use of a crossbow may need updating. During the Powder Valley open house, to discuss proposed changes, I spoke to an MDC staff member about some simple, effective changes. Today a hunter wishing to use a crossbow must obtain a waiver from their doctor every 5 years. Why not allow certain hunters to receive lifetime waivers? For example, those with chronic/long term disabilities will likely never be able to effectively use a compound bow and shouldn't be required to get a new waiver every 5 years. Reserve the 5 year waiver for those who might temporally be unable to use a bow, e.g. someone recently injured in a car accident, or suffering from a sports related injury. Institute crossbow specific early archery seasons at some of the state parks/conservation areas. This would allow those without a waiver the opportunity to hunt game using crossbows if they so desire. I am blessed to have private, family owned property to pursue game on, so allowing general use of crossbows will not impact me for the time being. However, fellow hunters using archery tackle on public land would be at a severe disadvantage if crossbow hunting were opened up to the general public. Archery hunters take great pride in perfecting their craft and using their skills to pursue deer. Crossbows take minimal practice and would allow a hunter on the same public ground greater odds at harvesting a deer, at far greater distances, than someone using a bow. Thank you for your time and making this forum available for hunters to share their views and opinions.

I don't mind the proposed changes except the use of crossbows. A bow archer has spent lots of time practicing and knows when and where to place their shot. If you let people go out using crossbows I fear they would consider it more of a gun than a bow and I believe there would be more bad shots taken and more wounded deer that won't be recovered. It should be reserved for handicapped persons only!

I do not believe the number of deer need to be increased in the Henry, Benton and St. Clair counties. I see numerous deer laying on the highways and blacktops in my area. I see numerous deer in the fields, 6 to 12 at a time and several of my friends have game cameras out and lots of deer pictures. I have seen quite a few trophy bucks on camera. I have filled out a mail in survey but did not see an area to write a comment. Therefore, I do not need to increase the deer herd in these counties. Thanks.

I don't rifle hunt, I'm strictly a bow hunter. I wait all year for the 4 months of bow season. The rifle season any deer tag should also be valid for late season archery hunting for those of us who don't use gun season.

Crossbows should only be used by the disabled and adults 60 or older! I think youth season should be during the regular rifle season. Reduce the number of rifle season days to nine. Reduce the antlerless portion for sure until the herd replenishes. Raise the out of state deer/turkey tags by \$200.00 more. Only one antlered buck during bow season and one during rifle season or primitive. Open check stations again in the counties where the disease is to test all deer taken!

While I can afford the non-res deer permit at current pricing, others not as well off as me cannot afford to do so. More and more people migrate away from their upbringing in the search of opportunity. My brother (also now a non resident) cannot afford to hunt on our fathers land anymore due to the price of the non res permits. I think the state would benefit from more revenue as a result of more permits despite a lower price per permit.

My family and I are mostly meat hunters so these regulations will be nice in the instance of xbow hunting and I really never understand Urban rifle hunting anyway. Thank you for taking the survey done a few years ago into account and moving the regulations in that direction.

I am adamantly opposed to the inclusion of crossbows into the regular archery season for everyone to use. The crossbow is not a piece of archery equipment. It may have some components like a bow but that does not make it one. I have seen air rifles modified to shoot arrows. Will they be allowed into archery season as well? The PSE TAC-15 crossbow is made to snap into the lower part of an AR-15 assault rifle. The Parker Concorde crossbow can cock and uncock itself using CO2. How can these weapons possibly be called pieces of archery equipment? The only state or national archery organization that I know of that considers the crossbow a piece of archery equipment is the Archery Trade Association. And the only reason they do is because many of their members sell them. But let's set aside the classification argument for a moment. MDC says the reason for this inclusion push is to recruit more hunters and retain existing ones. I don't buy that argument for a second! How does crossbow usage retain hunters? If they are too infirm to use a real bow all they have to do now is get a medical exemption for a crossbow permit. If that's too much trouble then they must not want to hunt very

badly in the first place. Those people are going to quit hunting anyway. The recruitment angle really gets my goat. The reasoning behind this is, since crossbows are perceived to be easier to master than a real bow, folks who are intimidated by the archery learning curve will flock to this easier method. First off, why do things have to be made easier? If you're too d--n lazy and undisciplined to learn how to use a bow then you don't deserve to hunt in archery season, period. It's a middle-class mantra told to our children that anything worth having or doing is worth working hard for. Yet, in this case, we are hypocritically saying that it's okay to get the prize (participating in archery season) without having to work for it. I've wanted to be able to dunk a basketball since I was 10 years old yet I never once petitioned the powers that be to lower the standard goal height so I would be able to. The two traits common to all good hunters are patience and perseverance. How are these traits taught to these newly recruited hunters when the reason they are hunting now is because their weapon of choice is easier to learn and easier to use? I have bought tags and licenses every year for 35 years. I am an avid outdoorsman and do everything I can to support and promote the hunting sports. According to MDC's research, that puts me in the minority. Your data shows that the majority of our state's hunting population today buys tags only one or two years in a row. These aren't avid sportsmen, these are folks who are trying out a new hobby and certainly will not be around for the long haul. MDC also says the crossbow inclusion issue is being driven by public opinion; dare I say the same folks who make up this majority. My question is, do you really want to base long-term policy on the opinion of a bunch of people who may not even participate in the season you changed the policy for? That is just silly!

I am in favor of the rule changes pertaining to archery season. In my opinion, crossbows are equal to compound bows. They shoot at identical speeds and range possess the same limitations. Crossbows offer me a better alternative to vertical bows allowing me to hunt during archery season. As far as the rest of the changes, as a temporary change to bring numbers back up prior to a couple years ago prior to the drought that brought on disease and deaths of the deer population.

I am opposed to the reduction of antlered deer allowed in archery season. It serves no purpose whatsoever other than to mollify the firearms hunting crowd. Your own state deer biologist says there is no biological reason for this proposed reduction. So why do it? If the purpose is to try to restructure the age class of the state's male deer population, your own numbers show that it will be completely ineffective. Only .3% of archers kill two bucks in a season. Using last season's numbers, that is 62 deer out of a total of 260,552 killed for the entire year, or .0239%. Statistically, that is insignificant. If you truly want to restructure the age class, the changes need to be made to regulations pertaining to the firearms portion of the season. Less than 20% of the deer taken each year are classified as archery kills. So it only makes sense to make changes to the regulations that affect where the lion's share of the kills are coming from firearms. Leave us archery hunters alone!

I agree with all proposed changes.

First off let me say that I have hunted your great state in the past, but I am not a resident. I live and breathe deer hunting so I do join in on numerous hunting forums. I saw the thread on ArcheryTalk that you all are considering: (1) Define Archery Equipment as including crossbows. (2) Allow the use of crossbows in All Seasons, by all hunters and in all wildlife management areas. I fully support that proposal. 13 years ago, because of a shoulder problem, I had to begin using a crossbow for hunting deer. I was pleased that the crossbow is a fine hunting tool on a par with the compound bow that is used by 95% of the bowhunters today. There is very little difference, if any, between the two hunting tools. In the past I was like so many of today's bowhunters in believing that the crossbow had no place in the archery season. There is nothing like a disabling injury to change one's perspective. I have found that the crossbow is a fine hunting tool that needs to take its rightful place in hunting. In a time when the anti-hunting faction is attempting to eliminate all hunting, beginning with bowhunting, we should not be in disagreement about who hunts with what. When the anti-hunting wolf knocks on the door we had better have a complete army of all hunters ready and willing to stand up to them. In the last 13 years I have become an advocate for all archery equipment choice, including the crossbow. As more states allow crossbow more excellent data is gathered to show that the crossbow is a great recruitment tool AND a great hunting tool for retaining the older bowhunters. Although the goal should be to encourage new hunters, it is in our best interest to look at the other end of the scale at our older hunters. What can we do to keep them active and in the deer woods? The partial answer is the crossbow. Now, I am sure that you will hear from a vocal minority of bowhunters that want no one in "their woods" hunting "their deer" in "their season", but please be aware that they are just that – a vocal minority. But they are still a vocal minority when it comes to overall hunters in the state. So, I am fully aware that this is a hot ticket item with some bowhunters. But I have seen from other states that have recently expanded or legalized crossbow season that the opposition quickly dissipates after a year or two of crossbow hunting seasons. After that year or two year or two after crossbow legalization it becomes the Shakespearean "Much ado about nothing" as people just go hunting. Sincerely, C.H.W.

I am all for crossbows being allowed during archery season. For several years now I have not had the time I once did to practice with my compound bow or bow hunt. I think for me a crossbow is a good alternative with less time required for the practice needed to be an ethical hunter. I still like being out there before the gun season starts and have always preferred bow hunting. Just don't have the time to practice much anymore. Based on what other states have seen the deer population or number of tagged deer during archery season did not change a whole lot by allowing crossbows in archery season. I could also possibly get my young girls out in the woods hunting at a little earlier age.

Leave the November firearms portion 11 days. Holding the late youth portion earlier in the winter is a good idea, however, many families travel and have family obligations the weekend after Thanksgiving. I think a different weekend should be explored. Personally, I would like the antlerless portion in late December, thus moving the alternative method portion up to early December. Our deer numbers are much better this year than last. No crossbows during archery

season! It takes a lot of time, effort, and some luck to bag a legal buck with a bow. If a hunter gets a chance to shoot a second buck in the same season, he/she has earned that chance. Don't drop the archery buck limit.

Firearm Season Changes: Venison is an important staple in my families diet and I feel reducing the number of days available to hunt could create a major, negative financial impact on my family. I know that there are many families in the area that are the same way, if not even more dependent that mine. The last 2 seasons have not been very productive for us with the seasons being as long as they are, not to mention trying to work the hunting in around work. That includes hunting in the regular portion, antlerless portion and alternative methods seasons. I would like to see the seasons stay as they are. Archery Season Changes: I do feel that making crossbows available for the archery season would bring in more hunters.

Born and raised in Franklin Co. I now live in Tennessee and have made it an annual trip to hunt with my family during the November gun season. I really like all the proposed changes listed above. Great job MDC. Nothing like coming back home to hunt the great state of Mo.

I am all for the new proposals, particularly leaving gun season alone and allowing crossbows in archery season. I also like the limiting archery to 1 buck.

I support the new proposals. I am for leaving the gun season where it currently is and for allowing crossbows in the archery season.

I have been asked to come to Mo to hunt deer with friends. I deer hunt with a crossbow so I have decline. It would be nice to hunt Mo with my crossbow like I do in my home state of Ga.

Simply limit the number of antlered deer to two combined; DO NOT restrict to one only per archery tag. More gun hunters will be the result of the proposed restriction, and that is not a positive change.

Please consider letting crossbows in with the Archery season. I am a non-resident but would like to hunt your state with crossbow. Thanks!

Ok with all proposed changes and FULLY SUPPORT adding crossbows to the archery season, doing so is way overdue. Thank you MDC for what you do.

I support the changes the MDC has proposed, especially adding crossbows to the archery season. I have access to a crossbow yet hate cold weather and would love to be able to archery hunt with a crossbow in the early season while it is still somewhat warm.

All changes are good, would very much like the use of crossbows during archery season.

Please do not change the length of the regular portion. 1) Maintain the current timing of the November portion and reduce the length to 9-days. Please do expand the youth portion. 2)Expand the late youth portion to 3-days beginning the first Friday after Thanksgiving. Please do not reduce the length of the antlerless portion. Reduce the length of the antlerless portion to 3-days and begin on the first Friday in December. Please do not eliminate the urban zone portion. 3)Eliminate the urban zones portion. Please do not reduce the time hunters have to be in the field. We don't have unlimited time during each season to hunt. We all have jobs and need a

longer season to be successful. Shortening the season will cause some to resent the MDC and not respect the rules. Please consider a longer regular firearms deer season.

Archery season should end at the onset of first youth hunt. 1 buck by any means allowed. Need shorter alternate methods hunting. Modern muzzle loaders are not a challenge and are 200 yard weapons. I like other changes but would like trophy areas established possibly voted on by landowners. Outfitters problem for landowners trying to improve hunting experience. They destroy buck doe balance. No limit to amount of hunters they bring in on a given piece of land.

All the changes are fine, here's one more - reform the deer dog running laws. My neighbor runs 5 mo.s all I get from my co. agents is well you know how it is more better smarter enforcement on this one. If you're worried about deer numbers, fix this. Tired of calling and nothing happens. Stick it in their a--.

I like having the extra 2 days of rifle season. I usually sit a food source on Tuesday evening after things have calmed down. However, I rarely see anything so it's not that important. What bothers me is the timing. Rifle season should be moved to the week of Thanksgiving to avoid the peak of the rut. Period. You are making a huge mistake by not moving the rifle season. The other thing that REALLY bothers me is that you are killing deer in the CWD zone for no good reason. Between EHD and the MDC slaughtering deer the herd in the CWD zone is being decimated. Pick a weekend, like first youth season or opening weekend of firearms and open 4-8 check stations in the CWD zone. Staff it with MDC personnel who can take CWD samples at the check in and stop killing our heard senselessly. I'm serious about this. You need to call your people immediately and tell them to stop until you re-evaluate the situation. Please. Also, you have to do a better job of reacting quicker the season after a deadly outbreak of EHD. I hunted 4 days of rifle season, and never saw a deer while on stand. Do you realize how pathetic that is. I know you need to sell tags to fund your department, but seriously, do the right thing and cut back on the number of doe permits. Also, take the 4 point rule state wide and be done with it. Stop cherry picking. Five years from now everyone will appreciate it. Finally, I'm not sure I like the crossbow statewide, but you should have allowed them in urban zones years ago. Accurate, deadly and silent. I have no earthly idea why you wouldn't want that in an urban environment. If you allowed crossbows in urban environments maybe Town and Country would not have spent 40k on sharp shooters. Unreal. Please get it together. I have always been a huge supporter of the MDC, but lately, you disappoint.

I believe all proposed changes are great, except allowing cross bows to all hunters during archery season. I believe allowing this would show a major increase in deer hunting pressure and harvests. Many bow hunters seek the challenge of true archery methods. Many archery hunters, including myself, enjoy the solitude of archery hunting, and hunting unpressured wildlife this increase in pressure and harvests would negate allowing only one antlered deer with archery methods due to higher harvest rates from the cross bow hunters

I disagree with the 1 buck limit on archery. It's hard to get a buck anyway every year, if you get lucky one year to bag two that is great. I also don't like crossbows being legal for archery season. Should be keep in rifle season or if you have an injury. Of all at the bow hunters I know not one

has shot two bucks in a season, so I don't see why there is a need to reduce. Archery is very hard, you should be rewarded. Of course someone will say that is the reason why not to have two, but they probably are not avid bow hunters.

I agree with the firearms season changes. I agree with the introduction of crossbows. They are much more accurate and will hopefully reduce the loss of wounded animals. Also, as an aging hunter, the use of a crossbow will allow me to continue to archery hunt in Missouri. I also agree to the Conservation Area Regulations.

1. Reducing the November firearms season to 11 days, I agree. 2. Expanding the youth season: 3 days after Thanksgiving, I agree. 3. Reducing the length of the antlerless season from 12 days to 3, Shortening is a good idea, but I suggest shortening to 6 days: 1st Friday of December through Wednesday. 4. Then change the alternative method season from the 2nd Friday in December and lasting 10 days. 5. Eliminating the urban zones gun seasons, I agree. 6. Allowing crossbows during archery season, I have been using a crossbow during archery season under the handicap provision for 5 years and I certainly agree with opening archery season to crossbows in general. 7. Reducing the limit of antlered deer during archery season from two to one, I agree.

8. Concerning the antler point restriction: I would like to see the point restriction reduced from 4 points (on one side) to three points on one side. This would make recognition of the required number of points MUCH easier, especially in heavier cover.

I do not want to see any reduction to the number of days allowed to the gun portion, I bow hunt all season but due to the terrain I rarely get a deer in range on my property, so gun season is how I provide 90% of my families red meat for the year. I am very busy with my job so it is already difficult to find many opportunity to get in the stand with current number of firearm days. Please keep the same number of firearm days.

I attended the public comment event in St. Louis county. I was hoping for a more lecture/ Q&A event. I don't think able bodied people should use crossbows during archery season. That is laziness. I thought the whole idea of the changing the deer season was to do what is best for the deer herd. That means moving rifle season out of the main rut but because gun hunters don't like that MDC is too afraid to do it. But MDC has no problem taking away one archery any deer tag!?! The muzzleloader season, now called alternative methods, should go back to the the 1987-1998 rules, tags, and season dates. I'd would be happy to give up an archery any deer tag if MDC had the intestinal fortitude to move the rifle season opener back to Thanksgiving week. Penalizing the bow hunters and then appeasing gun hunters is ridiculous. Everyone needs to sacrifice something.

FIREARMS: I agree with the 9 day season length; youth season is abused by too many that use that time to fill their regular tags, do not increase the length; the other two antlerless portion and urban zone changes sound good. **ARCHERY:** Very much against the use of crossbows during that time frame; the reduction of antlered deer is not necessary very few antlered deer are taken late season. **CONSERVATION:** this is a good idea.

Keep it all the same. I travel to your state for the past 4 years and I like the 4 point restriction. You have more mature bucks then we do and your rifle is a week earlier which makes it easier to

take my dad in Wisconsin. I'd leave all alone except give nonresidents free antlerless tags with a gun and rifle tag. And maybe muzzleloader later.

I believe the firearms season should be moved to the first part of December to allow for more breeding to take place and so younger rutting bucks are not as vulnerable. I also believe out of state residents permits should be moved to a drawing system unless they own land. In which case their permit fees should be increased. If in state resident fees need to be increased to offset the costs I think that is fine. I do believe hunters should only be allowed one archery buck permit and one firearm buck permit. I think crossbows should be limited to women, men over 55, or with a legitimate doctor's note. For all others compound bows and traditional bows should only be allowed. The youth firearm season needs to be a week earlier in October and keep the late season youth hunt as well.

Move firearms season to December 1. Eliminate late season youth. Reduce antlerless portion to 3 days. Eliminate urban zone portion. NO! to crossbows in the archery season. One antlered deer per hunter per year. No comment on area reg. changes. Make non-residents draw for tags they should not be unlimited.

I have read the proposed changes and just watched the video on here and my biggest, and really only, problem is the allowance of crossbows. I gun hunt but consider bow hunting my real passion. I DO NOT want to see crossbows allowed for everyone. There is no reason a physically able hunter needs to use a crossbow during the archery season. I don't care what anyone says, crossbow use is not archery hunting. They have their place and that is in the alternative season. Sitting with a pre-cocked weapon with a scope, resting it on a shooting rail and pulling the trigger is not bow hunting. Even though a lot of people do both, a gun hunter and a bow hunter are two different types of hunters. Bow hunters spend a lot more time in the woods, not just hunting but scouting, managing their hunting land with food plots, minerals, ect. and care about their hunt vs. someone who just goes out and finds a spot they can see good and waits for the deer to come out. I feel bow hunters take a lot more pride in their hunt, the deer, their land vs. other types of hunters. Many of us practice shooting our bows year round just to be prepared for bow season. For gun season I shoot my gun a day or two before season just to make sure my scope is on. Crossbows would be the same. I'm a member at NOMO bowhunters club near Moberly, MO and have never seen anyone with their crossbow just there practicing. It's hard enough to find a place to hunt around my area as it is now. Sometimes a land owner might let you bow hunt because their land only gets hunted during gun season. I fear that allowing crossbows would increase the amount of people out during archery season just making it even harder to find a spot to hunt. Bow hunting takes a lot of time, skill, and practice which keeps a lot of gun hunters from doing it. You sight in a scoped crossbow just like a rifle. I feel if those hunters realized they can take a crossbow out now and don't have to go through all the trouble and time practicing as they would've with a compound, they'll do it and we compound bowhunters will suffer. One of the great parts of archery season is knowing that if we put in the time and practice, we have a great season and opportunity to harvest a nice buck before they're pressured and more nocturnal due to the coming gun seasons. The video/article stated that

crossbows would benefit the older hunters who might not be able to pull back a bow. How about setting an age limit stating anyone over 50 can use one? Also, it states that they would allow younger hunters to get involved. I am all for helping kids hunt. I love taking my own kids hunting but you know what, archery is supposed to be harder. That's what makes it so rewarding when you finally do harvest one with a bow. I feel it's ok to make them wait until they're bigger and able. Besides, young kids who practice can still eventually shoot a compound just fine and effectively at a pretty young age. The biggest issue that anyone of us should be concerned about is the management of our deer herd for a healthy population. Seasons, dates, permits allowed, those are the issues I trust in the MDC to manage for our deer hunting. Our "methods" are fine the way they are. Please do not change them. Thanks for taking the time to read this, D.W.

I will start in area of importance to me. If we are going to allow crossbows during archery season, then we should do like other states, allow for medical reasons and let hunters 62 years of age and older use them. They are already allowed in gun season. They aren't drawn and held as a real bow. As far as youth go, they need to learn that you have to work for things. Such as archery hunting. The facts show that crossbows would give those people an unfair advantage over REAL BOWHUNTERS. I also don't understand how you can figure that if you cut the buck limit in half for the REAL BOWHUNTERS and then add crossbows that there wouldn't be a higher buck harvest. I think archery deer harvest in general would go down because the hunters that had already harvested a buck, probably wouldn't be hunting after gun season as much. As far as out of state tags, I think our tags should mirror the cost we would have to pay in their state. At a minimum it should be \$500.00. Also, there is where you need to limit buck tags, not resident hunters. I am in favor of a shorter gun season but it still needs to be moved back a week to allow more mature bucks to do the breeding. As far as the youth season, I don't mind a special 2 day season, even though I think that the majority of the big bucks aren't being killed by youth hunters. The youth hunters already have more hunting days than adult hunters. I don't think they need the second season when they can hunt during the antlerless season. I do believe shortening the antlerless season will help, but it should just be 2 days. As far as the other changes, I don't think they would have much of an effect on hunters. I know that my comments won't matter because in the end, it is all about the money you can take in anyway. I think these comment periods are an insult to Missouri hunters and fishermen because you don't pay any attention to them. Just remember, if you don't listen to what WE want, Senator Munzlinger will.

Reducing archery antlered deer is not the solution. Most of all your data should come from firearms which is the majority of kills. I suppose you're more interested in the economics of firearm vs. archery. Plus non resident land owners were thrown under the bus some years back. I am sure this will be a pure economic decision.

Keep November firearms as is. Keep late youth portion as is. Leave antlerless portion as is. Keep urban portion as is. Do not allow cross bows in archery season. Allow only 1 antlered deer in archery season. Keep conservation areas regs as is.

To the regulation changes. I support the regulations changes except the following, to take the second buck away from the archery hunters would have a negative impact on the amount of

hunters that would take interest in hunting after the rifle season. This change would promote people not tagging wildlife, and also while out hunting after killing their first buck would be more likely to attempt the use of others tags to allow a second chance at a buck. The current regulations are restrictive and very few bucks are harvested using the second archery tag. The impact that is placed on the buck herd by a second archery buck is very limited as most hunters don't use the second buck tag but do travel to the woods in attempt to do so. The legalization of everyone being allowed to use a crossbow would have a larger impact on the buck herd than the second buck archery tag would ever have. The current regulations presently in place for crossbows has been successful and has worked. Archery and Archery hunting is a development skill which families teach to one another. Fathers and mothers develop these skills and now this teaching is spread to our schools. To teach a child this skill comes from a box with little to no practice would be sending the wrong message. I have a crossbow and within ten shots the crossbow was ready to hunt. The ageing and limited hunter already has this extension in place and the current regulations have, and will work as they have in the past with little trouble. The great fear for me is our youth having a place to hunt. I think for the future is more land for the youth to enjoy the outdoors weather hunting, fishing, bird watching, or mushroom hunting. For the ageing is having more access to the public we already have. There should be no lake a vehicle cannot be driven to allow access for the public. I have fished on public lakes that most people cannot reach, this is sad as I age I know that more land and lakes will become less accessible to me. I support to make all MDC owned and managed land to be restricted for the use of shotguns, muzzleloaders, and archery. This would give the deer a chance to grow and reach their full potential. This would probably reduce the over harvest of deer on public land.

I'm not for any weapon with a stock on it being allowed during the archery season. I really don't understand the removal of 1 antlered deer from the archery season. Everything I've read or scene in this state or any other the success rate of the archers does not seem to be decimating the deer herd. There are 4 or 5 gun seasons every year which takes a whole lot heavier toll on the deer than anything other than disease. There is a youth season which I support 100%. Then there is a regular season, a black powder season, and then 1 or 2 antlerless only seasons. By the departments own admission a fair amount of the late deer taken in the late antlerless portion are shed bucks. If we want more does taken from the herd require people to take them prior to taking a buck. If that is not the case reduce the number of antlerless tags allowed. I don't have any issue with what is charged for non resident fees I think it depends on what you want or need to accomplish. If you're ok with the amount of nons coming no adjustment is needed if you don't get enough or have too many then adjust accordingly. I also believe because I hunt a few other states that if their fees are too high or exorbitant I don't spend my money with them. The one comment I have is the same I gave the state of Kansas on their survey I have no problem being a part of your herd management and would be willing to take a doe prior to taking a buck but if you're going to do that or need to do that to non residents then charge us resident fees for the doe tag.

I am a farmer and a hunter, operating in Cole and Osage Counties, and do not agree that there is a need to increase deer populations. We incur significant - and I MEAN SIGNIFICANT - crop damage annually at Cole County, and our neighboring farmers have major crop losses in Osage. Reducing firearms season, and ESPECIALLY reducing the length of antlerless season significantly reduces my ability to rotate doe killers through my property. A single weather event during the three day antlerless season effectively negates the entire season. The extended firearms and antlerless season allowed us to rotate several hunters (including kids) through to try to manage population, and the Department is now going to take that tool out of my toolbox. The EHD outbreak was in 2012, reducing populations and the Department's "fix" is going to be implemented FOUR YEARS LATER? Any population loss from 2012 is well into recovery, and as usual, the Department is swinging behind the ball. I am an avid hunter, but cannot manage populations by myself. Lagging recovery in low-population areas is likely a result of the Department's (and QDM's) tact of encouraging mindless doe kill, and not season length or type of weapon or age of hunter. Remember - a single ice storm during a three-day season and you have NO ANTLERLESS SEASON. SUGGESTION - KEEP THE EXTENDED SEASONS AND LET THE LANDOWNERS MANAGE THEIR DEER NUMBERS. I can see when we need populations reduced, and when we need to give them a break. We are firmly into the need reduced mode and are fully recovered and more from 2012. Estimated direct cost to me annually for your deer = about \$15-25,000 in yield reduction excluding the constant labor to monitor and repair fencing, and replanting costs. Don't tell me that damage is varmints - I live out there and I know. 30-50 deer in a necking soybean field is major issue, as is losing most of the outer 20 rows of corn every year. Don't even attempt to plant beans in the creek bottoms in northern Osage - you won't get to harvest some years. Last week I saw over 40 deer in one 15 acre field. You do the math. I would be ecstatic to discuss my observations with any Department employee that will listen. I have supported MDC over the years, and want to support the department in the future, but this is a bad management idea for my area. Maybe OK for some areas, just not mine. R.L.

We have a lot of mature does in northern Newton county, young bucks that I passed on was about the same as last year! Trail cameras showed good bucks which stayed in timber feeding on acorns but we have a lot of young deer for next year's harvest! Really can't understand these changes in our area, hope we don't reduce our buck herd for some reason I'm not being told about! Hunted for 53 years.

While I agree on some off the changes I do not agree with limiting the number of deer I can take any further. My family and I rely on the meat I harvest.

Reducing firearms season length is a small step in the right direction. I strongly support moving back the season a week or more. One youth weekend season prior to firearms season is enough. The Thanksgiving weekend ruins the opportunity to hunt other small game like using dogs for squirrel hunting. Eliminate the antlerless season. I support eliminating the urban zones. I oppose the use of crossbows during the deer season without an exemption. I support the limit of one buck by any method. If two bucks are allowed they should be 2 bucks total with only 1 by firearms.

I agree with your proposed changes except for Archery. I would like you to continue allowing two bucks even if there was an antler restriction. Also, I believe that including crossbows WILL increase the number of crippled deer. I believe that it may increase the number of people but not necessarily the number of sportsman. Otherwise, much of what is proposed makes sense in light of the recent data. Thanks for your time and effort in managing Missouri deer.

I am not in favor of allowing crossbows to be used during archery season without an exception. Crossbows provide a significant advantage over a bow that requires the user to draw and hold before the shot. I am definitely not in favor of reducing the archery hunter to one buck. What management goal is met by removing a buck tag from the archery hunter after firearms season? The percentage of bowhunters that harvest a second buck is very low and would only force these hunters to hunt out of state if they wish to continue to hunt. Why force them to spend their money in another state and produce jobs elsewhere? Where could I find the percentage of bowhunters that harvest two bucks in a season?

I don't like the rule changes considering the crossbows and the one buck for bow hunters. I do like the earlier youth season. To me looking at stats there is not many that actually kill the second buck anyways me included. I do like having the option to do so if I wanted. If it is going to be changed I would like to have the option of using my rifle tag during bow season after the firearms season. Giving me the option to kill 2 bucks with my bow. The crossbow issue is that it takes away from the true bow hunter. The biggest part of bow hunting is getting drawn when the deer is in range. Crossbows you can just sit and wait like a gun. You also going to have more turkeys killed what are you going to do about that? If you are going to change this rule, how about having it legal to crossbow hunt after firearms season. Just my two cents.

I do not agree with shortening the seasons. I do agree with one buck tag for bow hunters and allowing the use of crossbows. I think any method that allows for more hunter participation is a good thing. The MDC right now is between a rock and a hard place right now in nw Missouri. Some areas have seen a drastic drop in numbers and some areas are still over populated. I personally manage over 1800 acres for deer. We run trail cameras and observe our numbers all year to set a doe harvest number. This year, with a tag restriction on does, we couldn't come close to our target number for harvest. This is going to be a larger problem next year. I would like to see a way for people to manage their herds in areas of high density. In the past on one farm we have been granted two depredation permits to curb the numbers. I hate having to go this route as the meat is wasted. I would love to see a special permit available that would allow us to harvest the right number of does for our two properties during the season. There could be an application or better yet an interview with a conservation agent. I just hate to see the state put regulations in place that treat all areas as though they are under populated.

I am 59 and bow hunt from the ground in full camo in order to get close to deer and wearing orange just does not work. The early youth season ruins two days of bow hunting when the deer area really moving. I have to wear orange on that weekend. Now if you have a 3 day youth hunt after Thanksgiving then there goes 3 more days I normally bow hunt ruined. Just how can some people be allowed to hunt with firearms and not abide to the 4 point rule when others can not

because of age only. There should be an equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs of the MDC without regard to age. Now if the 3 day antlerless portion was on the same days then it would be a little more towards equal but still in favor of one group of people over another. At least I could be hunting with a firearm when wearing orange.

I'd like to comment on the proposed change to only allow the harvest of one antlered deer for bow hunters. I disagree with this proposed change. The rationale says it will cause bow hunters to be more selective. Most of the bow hunters I know are already selective and the majority do not typically harvest more than one buck annually with a bow. However, should we be fortunate enough to harvest a nice buck prior to firearms season, our season would then be over, causing hunter dis-satisfaction and the potential to lose hunters to other hobbies and past-times. If the harvest of immature bucks is the objective, perhaps the department could control harvest by additional antler point restrictions. In addition, I believe reduced opportunity to hunt would have an economic impact. There would be fewer bow hunters in the field spending less money in local small towns. Convenience stores, hotels, and restaurants would suffer. I can honestly tell you that I purchased a farm in Missouri over Kansas because of the more liberal bow hunting regulations. Now that quail hunting is virtually non-existent, most hunting would be over in early November (for bow hunters) or late November (rifle hunters) rather than continuing through January 15. In addition, I believe it would impact real estate prices. Missouri's current bow hunter-friendly regulations are driving recreational land sales and real estate price escalations. Missouri continues to be one of the few states with reasonable out of state permit costs. Finally, should the department decide to pursue this limitation, I suggest the real estate issue I suggest could be mitigated by allowing landowners the opportunity to continue to harvest 2 antlered deer with a bow. Self-serving, I admit but, it will likely drive even more real estate price escalation and sales.

It appears the MDC is trying to rebuild the deer population, which it needs to at this point. You need does in order to do this. In order to shift the harvest away from does and still provide deer to be harvested the 4 point restriction should be abolished. That is the reason the deer population in the south is steady to expanding. And please please do not have a 4 point rule on the whole state ever. A compromise would be half and half like it started out with, the Missouri River being a good dividing line. With 95% of the land being private, individuals can decide how to manage their land and what size of deer to harvest. It should be an individual's choice what size of buck to harvest, not a majority decision. Small bucks taste great by the way.

Have an 11-day main rifle season to start the Sat after Thanksgiving. You know all the reasons, but it will provide more hunting opportunities for college students returning home for Thanksgiving break. You can raise them to hunt but a lot of them don't get chances for several years during college. Have a 2-week crossbow season starting the second Sat in Nov (preceding and terminating with main rifle season). This gives crossbows a whole month long season. AND crossbow tag is a gun tag, not a bow tag. If you have bad arms, doctor's prescription okay for bow tag. Have an 11-day alternative season starting Dec 20 (this gives crossbows another season too). Have two youth firearms seasons: last weekend of October and the last week of December

starting Dec 26. Have firearms antlerless after alternative to run through 15 Jan. (and adjust as necessary). Keep archery season as is and allow archers to take two bucks. Regardless, let landowners and immediate household with 75 acres or more apply or obtain unlimited antlerless for archery and rifle.

I am in favor of the Firearms and Archery Season changes as long as they do not reduce the number of deer. While everyone would like to shoot a monster buck, I am more interested in giving my grandchildren an opportunity to be successful in shooting any legal deer. I am against private high fenced operations and any other regulations that have the sole purpose of promoting the state as a destination for professional hunters to shoot big deer to air on their hunting shows.

I am not in favor of permitting crossbows during archery season unless you have a disability. Strongly not in favor for one buck during archery season. Four month long archery season with one buck tag would create undo pressure on the already low doe population. The % of hunters filling both buck archery tags is low sow why take away hunting opportunity.

I agree with every change accept the crossbows and only allowing 1 buck. Crossbows are like shooting short range rifles. It defeats the purpose of us archery hunters, and a second buck is necessary to allow a cull buck and trophy buck.

I'm for reducing the rifle season back to 9 days. The last 2 days seem to be (at least in my area) mainly road hunters. Of course I'm also for backing it up to either over thanksgiving or even 1 more week so it would mostly be out of the prime rut. I would say leave the youth season the way it currently is and not move the late part. Yes, reduce the antlerless portion. No comment on the urban hunts. I just wish more urban areas would allow hunting for population control. No on crossbows. The reason is the draw of a regular bow. I'm all for getting more people into hunting but a cross bow, while you still have to get the deer in fairly close, you don't have to draw and that is normally when you get busted while bow hunting. A crossbow will remove this challenge. In our small area in northern Bollinger county we are trying to get the number of deer to come up so many of us in our coop are not killing does to try to get the numbers up. We all want to be able to kill does for meat but the number of deer taken in our area is so great that most of us can't take does. Most of us are looking for other areas to hunt so we can take meat. We continue to do Deer Camera surveys to see what our numbers are doing and so we can decide from there if we want to take a few does for meat.

I agree with the changes that are being proposed. Deer populations are down so that dictates a change in harvest numbers. If you are allowing cross bow throughout archery season I think that rifle season should be moved to the last week in Nov or the first week in Dec. This will give the larger mature deer more time to breed does during the rut and allow for more natural deer activity as opposed to forcing the big deer into nocturnal patterns so early. Allowing cross bow extends hunting opportunities to more people so the gun hunters might not complain so much about a move in the season dates. Changing the archery season to allow one buck is fine, but you should still get two tags with your archery permit. One either sex tag and one antlerless. Totally agree with moving the youth hunt to encourage more young hunters. Need to encourage local municipalities to hold managed urban bow hunts, even if only for antlerless deer in city

boundaries. Can require strict rules and vetting. Model after Polk County Iowa Urban Deer Taskforce.

I do not think the changes of the seasons should happen because they are fine the way they are. A lot of people depend on deer meat to feed their family because the meat in grocery stores is high and they can't afford the meat. I also believe the poaching of deer will get worse if you shorten the seasons.

I DO NOT favor antler restriction. I have seen what trophy hunting can do to the average meat-hunting public. I have relatives (landowner/ rice farmers) living in Stuttgart Ar. who are afraid to have friends, relatives, etc hunt on their own land for fear of retaliation from "outfitters" who charge for hunting. I believe antler restriction will only encourage fee hunting, which will lead to "elitist" hunting only. I own land in Lewis County, and "outfitters" are sprouting up everywhere. Most, if not all, land is leased for hunting rights. I have stopped putting out mineral blocks to stop concentrating deer, in hopes of helping to eliminate CDW. I believe "outfitters" will feed deer all year to encourage deer to stay on their property to increase hunter success from paying clients, to the detriment of non-paying hunters. I could not believe MDC would allow unlimited antlerless permits in my area, or for that matter, anywhere. My main reason for purchasing my property was to have a place to hunt, but in the past several years I have seen the deer population plummet. As for commercial deer operations, I believe the majority of diseases in the wild have come from the cervid imports, and are detrimental to the wild herds. I also believe that if the Dept. of Agriculture is allowed the management of captive deer, it will be a short step to control of the wild herd. The reasoning will be "It (the wild herd) is hurting the deer farmers, we must be able to regulate harvest to protect the interest of the farmers" Please remove the antler restrictions and be a little less drastic when making changes that reduce the herd. Perhaps a less drastic approach, with observations of results before making any further adjustments, would be more beneficial. As for season dates, I think deer biologists are more qualified than I am to establish those regulations.

I agree with a lot of the changes proposed especially the ones noted below. The main reason for my contact is I would prefer the man firearms season be changed. I feel our firearms season should be moved out of the rut to early Dec similar to Kansas. Reduce the limit of antlered deer during the archery season to 1. Keep the late youth antlerless season where it is. We do not need a youth portion in November. This will help landowners manage their property for larger bucks.

Firearms season changes: Don't reduce the length of the November portion, rather lengthen it through Thanksgiving. Expand the late youth portion, but at a later time. Leave the length of the antlerless portion as is. Archery season changes: Allow crossbow use by persons 65 and older and 12 and younger, not by all. One antlered deer is OK if you are allowed another antlered deer during gun season.

I would like to see you move the youth season to after the firearms season, like the week of thanksgiving wednesday-thursday-friday-saturday-sunday. Reduce the limit to 1 antlered deer during archery is ok.

I would love to see Missouri go to a county quota versus where we are at now. Growing up hunting with my father I can remember that there were many years that the county I lived in had a limited number of tags and you chose to either take a buck or a doe. While I am a meat hunter and hunt to provide food for my table, I saw serious issues with the 10 tag per hunter number and I saw issues with the reduction in numbers from 2014. With the 10 tag number a family of 6 could possible take up to 60 deer just during rifle season. That was uncalled for and damaged the deer herd that Missouri fought to recover. With the tag system last year being limited to 1 any deer tag per county was an improvement, however, too many people would travel to another county and shoot another antlerless deer. Bow hunters need limited as well! There are way too many bow hunters that shoot a buck before rifle season, 1 during rifle season and another after rifle season. Using that theory Muzzle load hunters should be granted extra tags. If Missouri does not want to see a reoccurrence, and an even bigger decrease of our deer herd, MDC needs to restrict the number of tags per family to 6. Limit the number of antlered deer to 1 per person combined for all seasons. Limit the number of deer to 3 per person for all seasons combined. Get rid of the antlerless portion completely. Move Muzzleloader (alternative season) to September and get rid of the use of modern pistols. Move the youth season to early October and limit youth hunters to 1 tag and get rid of the late youth season completely. Limit the amount of out of state tags that are sold and turn it into a lottery system for each county they are wanting to hunt. Last but not least, Missouri can achieve a thriving deer population again if we all return to hunting for meat instead of hunting for antlers. Too many places have astronomical lease rates (I know that is out of your control) and not all practice the most ethical hunting means. It saddened me to hunt almost every day of rifle, antlerless, and the alternative portion and see fewer deer than one hand could count. It brought me back to the late 80's when Missouri deer numbers were still down and making a comeback to seasons that you may not see anything. As a Missourian that wants to have a healthy deer herd, I would sacrifice MDC closing deer season for a year to allow numbers to rebound. I would also sacrifice the number of tags that I may take to feed my family in order to see the herd increase.

If you cut the season back to 9 days, then do away with the 4 point rule. At the public forum in Warsaw, J.S. told me it was very popular. To my way of thinking it is unnecessary.

I am not in favor of reducing the number of days in the fire arms season. I would prefer all youth seasons be after regular firearms season, expanded or not.

I am seeing more does and no really big bucks. I hunt Cooper & Howard Counties. I will suggest that at least 2 doe be allowed to be taken in Cooper County. As for bucks, only one during Archery season and only one during Rifle season should be allowed.

I wish you wouldn't cut the seasons for deer hunting.

Move the firearms season back a week or two but other than that I like the changes. Go to a draw system for out of state hunters.

When it comes to the Firearms season I would like to see it moved to later in the year, like December, how Kansas has theirs. It would allow the bigger buck to actually be hunted and not just shot as they chase does not using their heads. And the archery season, I think it would be a

disaster to allow crossbows, you will end up with more wounded deer due to people taking longer shots. I also think that if people are capable of shooting a regular compound bow they should have to use a compound bow and leave the crossbows to the ones who can't draw back a compound and they can use them during the alternative methods season! On another note, I think the telacheck system is not a good thing for our deer population, it's too easy for someone to shoot a deer put the tag on it till they get it home to the barn or something and then never call it in then they go out and shoot more deer on the same tag. Just a concerned deer hunter who really loves the sport and doesn't want to see it ruined.

Non resident fees are too high in all states. All non resident landowners and their immediate families should be treated the same as resident landowners: No fees for any tags. Archery season should be limited to one buck only. Allow only one antlerless deer per archery and one antlerless deer per gun seasons. Eliminate 4 point restrictions in all counties, not working for the meat hunter.

Why are you wanting to reduce the number of bucks during archery season? It's nice to have the extra buck tag after rifle season, if we didn't have the 2 buck tags and someone killed their buck before rifle season it's very doubtful that they would bow hunt after that.

I agree with all proposals except eliminating urban portions. I live at edge of town in between two timber areas and have issues with deer eating garden and trees and bushes. There is a thriving deer population probably over populated as I frequently see deer at least daily, sometimes 2 times per day. Currently I am seeing 10 deer every night. Currently I don't believe the city I live in allows hunting deer in city limits, but even if they did I would be afraid of neighbors opinion about hunting. I just hate to see the deer become over populated in urban areas and unhealthy. Deer in my area have no fear of humans and no deer repellents work for very long if at all. I enjoy seeing the deer, I just don't like my yard and garden being their food plot.

I am in favor of many of new changes expect the following: Late youth hunt does not need to be expanded. I believe that the youth hunt is more than fair. I have a 12 year old son that benefited greatly on opening day of youth season this year. If dads want to take their sons out they shouldn't need a reason. Crossbows should not be allowed during archery season unless the proper medical papers have been approved by a Doctor and MDC. Crossbows are very dangerous. I am all in favor of making crossbows usable during late archery season from Jan 1-15, but not all season. This is coming from a person who has benefited from a Crossbow this last season because of a broken/shattered left elbow that now has 9 screws and a 10 inch plate in his arm. Sitting in a stand with a loaded Crossbow is very dangerous. To have that much tension and energy loaded into a crossbow for long periods of time is scary and dangerous and if you don't think so you then you aren't respecting the firearm.

I would like to know if anyone that has even thought of allowing the use of a crossbow for archery season has ever shot one. If so they would understand that it takes about as much skill and commitment as shooting a 22 rifle. The people that worked so hard for an archery season many years ago wanted a season that would allow them to hunt with an bow and arrow, which takes practice and determination, not just an easy way-out to get the end result. A big part of

conservation is becoming one with nature not just harvesting the wildlife as fast and easy as possible just to keep people interested in buying tags, or more equipment. I think you will find that people will appreciate and respect nature if they have to give a little and not just have it given to them. Even if they don't know it. Sincerely, V.S.

OK with the 9 day season, needs to be across two weekends or many hunters will not have the opportunity to hunt at all. Concerning the cost of non-resident deer tags, yes, the cost is too high, however, considering what the wonderful state of Illinois charges non-resident hunters, I think it is fair. Really wish I could move back to Missouri.

We own 800 acres in Southeast Vernon county in the Montevallo township. We see 20 to 30 deer at least almost every evening in our crop fields eating. We are seeing no shortage of deer this year as compared to previous years. We believe the limit of deer allowed to harvest should be raised and the season made longer.

Please do not allow crossbows during the archery season. I was very disappointed when non-traditional muzzleloaders were allowed. Please don't wreck this too.

I dislike the so called Youth Hunt, I have seen far too many people that say they are taking a youth hunting and use this as an excuse for an "early" hunt for the adult. If a youth has to have someone hold the gun up for them, that shouldn't be considered a youth hunt. Also, if you are going to keep this "Youth Season" then move it to after the regular gun season. I'm pretty sure there won't be near as many hunters during this time. Also, what happen to taking your deer in to be checked in? It's a joke to call your deer in. I was understanding that it was going to give the Game Wardens (whatever they go by) more time in the fields (woods). I haven't seen this and have been hunting in the same area for 40 years. I think there is WAY too many deer being killed and privileges abused.

For myself I think all the new considerations are good. The one I consider the most important change is the use of crossbows during archery season. It will allow a new experience for people.

Hi, I am not in favor of shortening regular firearms deer season. I am very much in favor of crossbow hunting in archery deer and fall turkey. I also am not in favor of archery antlered limit as one.

I am sorry but for someone like me that has not tagged a deer this year and my 13 year old neither, changing the length of the season will definitely kill my chances even more. I can only hunt the weekends so the more weekends the better. I think moving the season farther back in November and farther into December would be better. The best time to hunt is with snow on the ground, with the warmer winters the deer are not moving as much. Need another season in Jan. that would be better. As for as the late youth season, leave it on the same weekend but add the third day on both seasons, not just the second. The more my kids can hunt just themselves the better.

I would like to see the crossbow not added to the regular archery season. My opinion is it should be only allowed for those that can't draw a bow back. Please leave it the way is. And would like to see the antlerless portion shortened or done away with. Thank you

Change youth season to early October and youth can only shoot does. By doing this you eliminate wounding big bucks you also eliminate grownups from shooting those big bucks and checking them in as youth kills! Wake up! Those little kids are NOT shooting those big bucks with 7mags and 30/06.s!

Due to the number of deer I have been seeing I believe cutting the number of days down to 9 for regular season and 3 for the doe season will hurt the much needed harvest. In one evening within a 2.5 mile area I have seen as many as 45 deer. We already are fighting a problem with crop damage, reducing the deer harvest will add to the problem. Moving the late youth season to the Thanksgiving weekend would be a great idea due to the current late season being so weather prohibited for smaller hunters. As for the changes to the Archery regulations I fully support those changes. I think this will reduce the fraudulent acquisition of permits to use crossbows and also will reduce the use of crossbows by those that do not have a permit. I fully support the taking of only one antlered buck with a bow. There are plenty of antlerless deer to take and this will allow for bigger bucks.

Crossbow should be allowed for persons with a disability only. Bow hunting is about the challenge and not just turning bow season into an early gun season with little talent needed to be successful. Thanks for hearing my input.

I am in favor of allowing crossbows for hunting during archery season and turkey season. This would expand the opportunities for many new hunters especially females, youth and those like me who have physical limitations. It has had good results in other states. Also, I agree with the one antlered deer per archery season. Thanks for all the efforts from the MDC, you all should be proud. Is there a plan to eventually move some of the new elk population to other parts of the state?

I hope consideration stays in play for counties, in McDonald I have 200 acres and in any 3 mile range you can count 50 to 100 hundred deer 95% of the time, on my 200a I'm feeding 25 head or more & that many more on 350a of rent land bordering me, with 15 bucks 8 points & better total the 2 places, this is not to counting the neighbors in any direction we do lot grass feeding and fence repairing, when we are raising cattle. So with this in mind like having plenty of deer to hunt and watch compered to maybe not seeing one in the whole season like the 70's & 80s but shorting the hunt in McDonald county when me have abundances of deer to manage, not sure that works here for us in the SW corner. Thank You, T.

I agree with the added crossbow to archery season, I believe that it will allow thousands of elderly Missourians to enjoy the fall season. As for the other regulations, I feel it will help deer populations. Here we already have antler restrictions which I think is great. But the greatest harm to populations here that I have witnessed seems to be poachers and road kill. I have heard shots ring out at all hours of the night all summer and fall from poachers, even talk of commercial sale of venison. I think a non-resident tag for a nine day season should be less than \$200.00. I want to thank you for the work you do with MDC. I feel lucky to live in a state that has done so well with conservation. I saw my first cougar this last fall. I look forward to traveling to the Peck Ranch and listening to the elk bugle this next fall. Thank You

I do not like the proposed changes for the archery season. Archery season is longer and allows 2 bucks because it is more difficult than hunting with a rifle and so not as many people do it successfully. I think allowing crossbows for people that don't physically need them is a mistake. It will bring out people who would otherwise never take the time to learn the skills needed to bow hunt. There will be more wounded and lost deer, more hunters in the woods, and eventually probably have to shorten bow season. PLEASE do not mess up bow season like the alternative methods messed up MUZZLE LOADER season, it's the only time left that there is any peace in the woods.

While reducing antlered deer to one with bow will do virtually nothing to help the herd I feel reducing antlerless tags will contribute more to the herd.

I see you're considering legalizing the use of crossbows during archery season. I have to say I am unalterably opposed to that idea. I can't believe it would even be under consideration!

The only part of the proposed regulations I am completely against is being able to hunt with a crossbow during archery season. With the option to hunt with a crossbow, harvest rates will go up. So what I don't understand is why not allow more does to be taken with a rifle instead of allowing people to harvest them with a crossbow. I am so against crossbows because you can shoot longer distances than with a compound bow and it will increase the amount of hunters which will cause more hunting pressure along with a reduced age structure in the buck herd. To me it seems like the use crossbows will ruin hunting for a lot of people where there is a lot of early season hunting pressure and the four point rule would be a waist because of the number of 2.5 year old 8 pointers that could potentially be harvested by the greater number of crossbow hunters. If we need more money from buying tags then allow more doe tags when the populating gets stable again. I am also against allowing rifle hunters on public ground due to the safety factor. It would be a very bad idea to allow people to rifle hunt public ground because of the increase in accidents. I also believe that out of state permits are too low for every season we have in Missouri. We are the cheapest state out of all of the surrounding states. Increase those costs to get more money from the out of state hunters.

I'm in favor of considering the crossbow, simply another type (variant) of archery (longbow, recurve, and compound). The ballistics of the crossbow is comparable to the compound bow. The only real advantage of the crossbow over the compound is that it is already drawn when a deer, or turkey arrives. Allowing the crossbow is likely to get more rifle deer hunters involved in archery. Many States and Provinces agree with my position. Thank you.

We really like the new changes you've proposed! I only saw two deer on our place as a kid growing up in the 1960s, but now we have a group of doe that are permanent residents and raise their fawns here. Thanks for what you've done for the population and their health! The only change I have questions about is the phone reporting system now used. I'm seeing a lot more poachers than in past years, and believe the honesty of many Ozark hunters won't rise to the trust level you've provided by phone reporting. I realize that the money saved with computerized services can be used in other areas of conservation, but wonder if the deer reports will actually be

representative of the population. I'm sure you know best and have done the studies necessary to make the changes, but thanks so much for allowing me to voice my concerns :)

My main concern is the ever increasing popularity of crossbows, and the proposed use during archery seasons. I think that this is a very bad idea, crossbows are trigger accuated and therefore are considered firearms. I have been a volunteer instructor and a certified archery technician with over 25 years of experience, and I can tell you that these devices are extremely dangerous, either to use or to service, and I feel that since they are considered to be classified as a firearm, at least for deer/turkey hunting they should remain that way. Furthermore, if this regulation is passed I myself, and as many other hunters as possible to no longer hunt or fish in my home state, which I will hate after doing so since 1970!

I am an avid bowhunter and am very concerned about two of the proposed changes. I feel that it takes a real commitment to be a bowhunter and if crossbows are allowed a big amount of people that are not willing to put in the work to bowhunt will buy a crossbow because it is more like gun hunting and will be easier to use a crossbow to kill deer illegally. Anybody that cannot physically use a bow now can get a doctor's note to use and crossbow and I personally know several that do this. I see no reason to allow crossbows to everybody. Please do not change this just to sell more tags because it will dilute the pool of bow hunters with just deer shooters. I also feel that limiting the archery season to one buck will also be detrimental because it will entice people to not tag buck kills (poach) in case they see another buck that is bigger. We have a good system know and feel it should not be changed.

I oppose lengthening Youth Season, why not just hunt during the regular season? I do support all the other changes. I could go either way on the Crossbow. But no need to lengthen Youth Season, have them hunt during regular season! And I have kids!

Please do not change the archery season limit on antlered deer. I am retired and hunt the total archery season. Most seasons I harvest an antlered deer before the rifle season. If you take away my second buck permit for the late archery season, I will have no reason to hunt that portion. I am sure there are many more like me, over 65 and love to hunt.

I have no problem limiting the number of archery antlered deer harvested to just one. I can understand cutting back the antlerless season back to 3 days. I know deer numbers are down compared to a few years ago. I do not see any need for another youth season and one that is longer to boot. With the proposed cutback in days and deer you can harvest, that makes no sense to me. I think that youth should be required to harvest does till they reach an older age too. And the age they can shoot deer is too young. I have a grandson that is 6 years old and I consider that too young to shoot deer.

I disagree with the change in archery season that allows hunters to use crossbows. I think that using a crossbow should be limited to the alternative methods season, and for people who truly need the use of a crossbow to kill a deer during archery season. Unless there is a specific crossbow season, the use of crossbows takes away from hunters that use a traditional bow. I understand that people make the argument about recurve and compound bows, but when you have a bow that has a scope, pulls back to over 100 pounds, and is capable of killing a deer at

over 65 yards, you are taking away from the people who spend the time and effort to archery hunt. You can't use a rifle during turkey season. Well why not? It is a gun. Same argument. Crossbows are for people who need them. If you don't need them, you can use a bow in which you can pull the string back and shoot through a peep, like everybody else. I also do not understand the proposed changes in conservation areas. Other than that, I agree with all other changes.

I think that the antlerless portion should be discontinued for a few years to get our deer herd back to where it should be. 9 days is long enough for our deer season. Allowing crossbows during the archery season would be a good thing. Some people can no longer bow hunt due to age and injuries. Most bow hunters would rather kill their deer bow and arrow rather than with crossbows anyway. It is a thrill to kill a deer with a bow rather than with a crossbow, but their some people that would like to bow hunt but can no longer draw back a bow.

I think crossbows need to be included in archery season, they have considered an archery weapon for hundreds of years and my kids are very interested in using them. The number of antlered deer taken as proposed is good with one per season. Urban firearms season needs to be taken out. It does need to be simplified to hunt on conservation land.

As to shortening the rifle season, I don't agree. Many of us work during the week. We enjoy only 2 weekends as it is. I also disagree with crossbows. I'm a bow hunter and I feel current regulations are fine. I have no problem with the only one buck regulation. My front yard fills with deer every evening. I have had as many as 28 at a time out there. So I know there is no shortage of deer. I can send you pictures to prove what I'm saying.

Supports reciprocal permit pricing for nonresidents. Only fair. Youth portion changes-support. 9-day deer season-supports. Doesn't support reduction in the antlered deer bag limit for archers. Are the prices of the archery permits going to go down? Should go down to \$14. Doesn't support including crossbows as an approved method for use during the archery deer season. Would support allowing kids to use crossbows during archery season.

I have already given my opinions on most of the proposed changes, I wanted to suggest making Lead Mine CA an archery only hunting area. We need a large area in this part of the state dedicated to archery only. I hunt on the east side of the Niangua River on the part that used to be known as Berry Bluff, the deer numbers there seem to be way down from where they were four or five years ago. I believe a lot of hunters are taking does and button bucks and illegally using any deer tags on them because they know they won't be checked. I have never seen an agent on that property and it is the only place I hunt. I know it is inconvenient because it is a long drive to access that side of the river from Dallas County but making it archery only would help a lot and we need an area like that anyway, I have to drive about two hours to get to any large archery only areas now. Please consider it, thank you.

I do not agree with the proposed change that would add crossbows to the approved methods for archery season. There are already exceptions to allow aging hunters or hunters with disabilities to utilize crossbows. I am glad those who enjoyed archery season, but are physically unable to use compound or traditional bows are still able to participate in archery season. However, I don't

feel that crossbows should be opened up to all hunters during archery season. There is a very large market for youth archery equipment that is more than adequate to introduce youth to the sport. I don't think there is anything wrong with youth practicing and honing their archery skills for deer season as opposed to aiming and pulling a trigger to release a bolt. Why do I care if other hunters are allowed to use crossbows? Well, as the article mentioned, most deer hunters are in favor of allowing crossbows. Why is that? The reason they support it because it's incredibly easy to hunt with a crossbow when compared to a compound or other bow. Plenty of hunters will drop their compound bows they couldn't master in favor of a crossbow with a red dot sight. You may as well allow pistols during archery season if crossbows are available to anyone. Back to the question of "why do I care?". I care because I (and many other hunters) worked very hard to hone my archery skills. I shot and practiced for hours. I had many unsuccessful seasons before bagging my first bow kill recently. I put incredible amounts of effort into scouting, preparing, and disciplining myself for the difficult shot briefly offered with a compound bow. It is challenging and rewarding. Now, I can guarantee that the woods that were once carefully traveled by skilled and silent bow hunters will be overrun with rifle hunters armed with a crossbow looking for an extra and easy opportunity to take a deer before rifle season. If your goal is to sell more archery tags, then you will succeed. If your goal is to maintain the sport of archery hunting, this proposal only hurts it. Thank you for your consideration.

I believe there is no need of a youth season. I feel the greatest gift that I could give to a young person, be it my children or grandchildren, is the passion to want to go fishing or hunting. The lessons we learned from our grandfathers, fathers, uncles, is to respect and protect the land and wildlife and the others around us. Do we have a youth fishing season, I should think not, so why is it that a mentor wanting to teach a youth to hunt any different. The greatest gift is to pass it on, so not be selfish, and give my time on opening day to be with someone wanting to learn how to hunt. That's the gift!

Leave the November portion alone, don't shorten. Eliminate early youth portion and make it the Friday, Saturday, and Sunday after Thanksgiving only, since the kids and parents/mentors are off school and work. No crossbows for regular archery season. Leave antlerless portion alone. The rest of the changes I'll agree with. Thank you!

I live in southern Clinton County and I am an avid hunter. While I realize that a reduction in the doe harvest is necessary in other counties, southern Clinton County has an over-abundance of deer. I think that the Department should consider harvesting more does south of Mo. Hwy 116 (which effectively cuts Clinton County in half). I realize that this makes harvest limits more difficult to enforce, but deer numbers in the area that I live necessitate this. Thanks.

I believe that we should leave the bow season to bow hunters and people that have a doctors permit to use a crossbow. I hunt the muzzle loading season and walked across a deer that was riddled with a pistol, I believe they hit and either didn't bother to follow through or didn't care. For those of us who care to hunt legally and care about conservation, I for one am not happy with the changes that have already been made and with most of the one that are being proposed!

Don't agree with the crossbow allowance.

I would like to see the firearms season move to later in November but really like the idea of making the season shorter. All for expanding the youth season and really like the idea of the date change. Definitely reduce the days of antlerless season if not eliminate it all together. I am against the use of cross bows during the archery season. I support the idea of one antlered deer during bow season. Off topic, I really wish the dept would look into the land owner tag system. The dept needs to understand some communities have households with a lot of people in the household, i.e. Amish, which put a ton of pressure on the deer population in those areas and the surrounding farms, some households may hold 10 people! That is a lot of tags that some people feel the need to fill, which directly effects the harvest opportunity's and decisions of other land owners. I remember reading a while ago the herd needed managed more by the land owners and by certain counties, well some counties need some management help, i.e. Lewis County ect. Sorry for the rant, R.W.

Gun season make a week later and 9 days long. Late Youth season sounds good. No crossbows for archery. Keep archery antler deer to 2.

To whom it may concern, I have voiced my concerns through E-mail to the MDC in the recent past about the, as I see as well as many other hunters in the area see, a SEVERE drop in deer population in Sainte Genevieve county. As I will not be able to attend any of the Regional Open Houses for Public Input, I hope that you will take my thoughts and views into consideration. I have seen the proposed changes to the hunting season for next year, I noticed only changing of dates, lengths of seasons or added restrictions to antlered deer harvest. Nothing restricting doe harvest, other than the reduction of the Antlerless season, which has no bearing in Sainte Genevieve County since it is not included in the "Antlerless Season". I know, as well as the MDC knows, that the population of deer, or of any other animal for that matter, is directly related to the number of females in an area. When I have voiced my concerns about needing to remove the "Antlerless Firearms" tag from Sainte Genevieve county I got the response of "I believe that much of the decline in the population in Ste Genevieve County is the direct result of the antler-point restriction shifting harvest pressure from bucks to does." I, with all due respect to Mr. Sumners for making the response, DISAGREE. I feel that APR has had an impact, but only partially. Yes, one who meat hunts, as I do, will shoot a doe because their desired smaller buck is not legal to shoot or they don't see a legal buck. However, I have spoken and listened to many that hunt in this county and have heard (1) only positive comments about APR, enjoying seeing the older, larger bucks and finally seeing rutting activity that was rarely seen before. (2) Have heard one's reason, and have seen happen on numerous occasions in the past few seasons, that they'll buy the "Antlerless Firearms tag" to shoot a doe first thing on opening day and wait on a nice or legal buck, but so often they find they don't see one or miss one and end up shooting another doe later to fill the "Any Deer tag" resulting in 2 does being harvested. (This is actually a practice I used the first year or 2 the "Antlerless tags" were available, but since the drastic and sadly underestimated results of the diseases on the deer herd in this county I have discontinued doing this.) As you know 1 Doe = 1 to 3 additional deer the following year. Now IF the deer numbers being what they were before the 2 years of disease had stayed that way this practice

would have had less of an impact on deer numbers. However, I know FAR MORE deer have died from the diseases in Ste. Genevieve County in those 2 years than has been reported so the deer population has been lower than expected. Now you stack the decreased does lost from 2 years of disease on top of the APR, with meat hunters shooting does and with the additional antlerless tag so hunters shoot another doe, this has created “The Perfect storm” so to speak, seeing a continued decrease in deer population in this county each of the past few years. At this point I sincerely believe if the “Antlerless tag” is continued it will only continue the decline in the population of deer in Ste. Genevieve County leading to only more drastic measures needed in the future. If the removal of APR is needed, then so be it, I have THOROUGHLY ENJOYED the benefits of the APR program, but as my family depends on deer for meat. (ground beef \$4/lb or deer that I process myself at around \$0.25/lb) As for my family we will NOT be purchasing the Antlerless tags and continue to limit, if not cease, shooting does on our family’s property next season, as much as that will hurt my family’s meat supply, to help the local deer population. It is my deepest desire and hope that the MDC will continue to investigate even further (since many I’ve listen to weren’t aware of the need to report every dead deer found) the results of the 2 years of disease from input of hunters, farmers and land owners and will take the necessary measures so that the deer population levels out or better yet increases in Sainte Genevieve County. Also, I feel that change to late Youth season is not a good idea, putting it the weekend behind November portion Firearm season. I feel deer are already pressured and on high alert toward the end of the November Firearm season it would be no benefit. I have a youth hunter of my own and we enjoy the late season being in January when the deer are more relaxed and back to a regular routine. Changing the late youth season to after the November portion with the pressured deer would only mean taking harvest opportunities away from my son. I mean no disrespect sending this additional response though I, as do many in the area, feel that the decline in deer population is a result of MORE than just the APR.

I own approximately 4,000 acres in northern Missouri. Along with my cousin we own and operate a whitetail deer hunting operation strictly for bowhunters. We bring 75 non-resident hunters into the state of Missouri each fall for the sole purpose of bowhunting whitetail deer. Many of our hunters make multiple trips to MO during the 4 month long archery season. They do this because the second license creates the opportunity for them to come back and spend more time and more money in Missouri. The majority of our hunters come from MN, WI and MI. They could choose to hunt in Iowa, Illinois, or KS. All of which have bigger reputations for whitetail hunting. But having the second license is a key reason why many of our hunters come hunt in MO vs those other states. Reducing the license to a single tag would dramatically reduce the number of non-resident hunters who choose to come to this state to archery hunt. The rationale given by MDC that the single tag will make bow hunters more selective in which deer they shoot, therefore improving the overall age of the herd, is ridiculous. First, bowhunters only kill 19% of all the deer killed in MO. So even IF they were to become more selective, it would have minimal impact on the herd. The other 81% being killed by gun hunters would still be 2 yr old 8 pts. Second, bow hunters in general tend to be more skilled hunters. They put more time

into their craft. They invest much more effort in hunting and value the time in the field as much as the harvesting of animals. I would argue that they are already very selective, and there would be no noticeable change in the deer they choose to harvest. Over the past 5 years, among our hunters, only 1 or 2 each year actually takes a second buck. Even though many come back to hunt after they have taken their first buck. But it is quite rare that they actually shoot a second buck. I would like the MDC to make public the statistics on how many (actual number) and what percentage of bow hunters actually register 2 bucks in a season. My educated guess is the number is very low. May 10 or 20%. So that means by taking away the second tag you might be saving about 3.8% (20% of 19% bowhunting deer harvested) of the overall harvest. Maybe. That's not a significant impact for the deer herd. More deer are saved by having a rainy day on opening day of gun season. And you are giving up the economic benefit of having those non-resident bowhunters coming into the state multiple times, not to mention the incentive to choose MO over Iowa, Kansas or Illinois in the first place. One of the reasons MO is the most hunted state by non-residents for spring turkey is the 2 tags that non-residents can get. While most other Mid-West states only offer 1 tag. Having 2 deer tags to be used over a 4 month long season is a huge differentiator for Missouri versus the states that we compete against. Reducing that number would be a huge mistake.

I don't like the idea of allowing crossbow hunting during bow season. A crossbow is not a bow, it is a short range rifle. It is actually a primitive weapon and should be classified as that and be allowed to use in the primitive weapon season. Is the 2 deer limit for archery season hurting our deer herd? We have far too many deer in St Clair and Henry County, they are being hit all the time by autos and causing way too much crop damage.

Reducing the limit of antlered deer during the Missouri archery season is ridiculous? Most hunters will hunt for meat and at the same time a good mature buck. Managing your herd goes hand in hand with taking a certain amount of bucks along with does! The population of deer in southeast Missouri is already overpopulated in certain areas! I strongly oppose this new regulation change!

I have been hunting since 1967 and, as an avid traditional muzzleloader, I would like to see the Alternative Methods portion changed to 9 day season also and for it to start on Saturday and end on Sunday the week before Christmas. I don't know of anyone who goes hunting Christmas weekend, does not help the home life. The deer would have a good two weeks from rifle season to settle down. Also, it was nice to have the January antlerless extension for a chance to fill a unfilled tag.

I don't really have a problem with them.

1) I hunt in Knox County near Baring MO. I am 42 years old and have hunted there my whole life. Right now I feel that this is the worst.

I feel the changes are acceptable, however the non-resident permits are low from what I understand our surrounding states to be.

NO on only one buck in Archery. Saves only 577 bucks. Compromise if needed: 2 bucks max per person by any methods/season. Only one archery before firearms. Unfilled firearms can be

used in second archery season. NO on crossbows. Too easy. Compromise if needed: crossbows for those under 16 years old, and medical exemptions. DEFINE what a crossbow is. Future advances will make them more effective. Put on communications/educate on passing button bucks. We kill 30000 per year. Reduce that and the age class of bucks will advance.

Cross bows should not be allowed as part of bow season if your handicapped or older get an exemption like it is now. The reason I bow hunt now so much is because I feel it's safer for me. Now you want to turn the weekend warriors loose for bow hunting with a cross bow. Leave the 2 bucks for bow season alone. I would really like to know how many bow hunters actually harvest a 2nd buck you never mentioned that so I assume its low. How about making youth season antlerless only this might stop all the fathers from shooting big bucks during the youth portion.

I hunt in Knox County near Baring MO. I am 42 years old and have hunted there my whole life. The past three seasons have been the worst hunting that I can remember. I feel the deer population is down 50% and the turkey population is down 70%. All of the purposed changes will NOT help to restore the population. 1) Crossbows are not a challenge and will decrease population of both deer and turkey. Making things easier will not gain better flocks and herds. They can be deadly accurate out to 100 yards. 2) Eliminate Antlerless season. Leave Alternative weapons season intact and use regular season tags during this season. 3) DO A BETTER JOB WITH POPULATION COUNTS AND USE IT TO REGULATE AREAS BETTER. 4) Move the rifle season to the last week of November starting Thanksgiving Day ending eleven days later on Sunday. THIS WILL MAKE IT A FAMILY AFFAIR. 5) Expanding the youth season will not gain hunters. All youth seasons are making less future hunters. The first youth season is too easy for young hunters. It is the one time of year when bucks are crazy stupid and easy to kill. Young hunters do not have to make much effort. Young hunters should be 10 years old before they are legally allowed to hunt deer and turkey. This will create anticipation and drive to want to hunt. C.O.

I ask you to please reconsider getting rid of the urban doe gun season. We hunt that season, me and my kids, and my son harvested a doe this season in wildwood during and it helps feed our family. Urban areas like this have too many deer and this helps even if just a little with the problem. With the other doe hunting restrictions, urban season will likely become more popular. Don't give up on a season because of too many regulations. You could use the same argument to get rid of all gun hunting in urban areas because of too many regulations. Please don't give in because of some resistance. My family would be hurt by this regulation. I have 2 and soon to be 3/4 children that hunt and this gives me more opportunities to divide my time hunting between my children. We hunt on a 50 acre tract in wildwood that is very safe. Please continue to give this season a chance, as I believe it will grow. Additionally, please don't limit the doe harvest in highly deer populated areas like Saint Louis County. When owners give you permission, they really want you to thin the herd. If you can only kill one doe, what is there incentive to let you hunt? We eat at least 4-5 deer a season, and this will limit our ability to feed our family. I love the youth season changes proposed. This will be great for the kids!

Keep firearms season the same. Why limit us? Yes for the three day youth! I really enjoy the antlerless season. I'm a rifle and bow hunter and I hunt for meat and am usually successful during the antlerless portion. I hunt Greene and Christian County.

Crossbows should only be allowed during the firearm deer season. There is skill involved when using traditional or modern compound bows, crossbows are just a simple point and pull a trigger. Most of my hunting/outdoor active is on public land and I believe that the addition of crossbows would only make public land more overran with out of state hunters than it is now. Our public land is highly pressured and private land owners may not understand or see how much pressure other hunters change the aspect of a being able to have a successful season. I hope the MDC is not putting financial gains over your commitment to Conserve fish forest & wildlife.

My comment comes from the perspective of someone who works very hard to manage the land year round for benefit of the wildlife and who enjoys hunting all season long, but is very selective about what actually gets shot at. I am generally complimentary of our department's wildlife resource management over the years and understand it is very complex. I noticed the possibility of decreasing the archery buck limit to one. I am opposed to this. I have never checked two archery bucks in the same season, but having that 2nd tag in my pocket can be the incentive I need to get out and enjoy a stand in the late season when conditions can be, well, less than comfortable. My suggestion is that instead of only allowing one archery buck, why not limit a hunter to two bucks over the course of a season, including both firearms (only one) and archery. Think of it this way - those of us that enjoy hunting in the late season, if we have been lucky enough to tag an early season archery buck, will be very picky during the rifle season, and less likely to shoot one with a firearm, still wanting to have that late season archery opportunity which often goes unfilled. You very well may save more bucks this way! I hope this makes sense.

I would like to get more info on your changes and reasoning. Crossbows should not be allowed during archery unless you are handicap- blk powder season is not blk powder anymore it's kinda like a free for all. Extending youth season is great it gives them more time in the woods and gain exp. I have had 1,400 acres leased for hunting for 7 years and it has its pros and cons every area is different not just in units.

I am in favor of the proposed changes except the use of a crossbow during archery season. The use of a crossbow should be limited to persons with a medical condition that precludes the from using traditional archery equipment. If you want to use a crossbow use it during firearms season where it belongs.

I need the extra 2 days (11 total), I have to work every other weekend, and to be fair to other co-workers (hunters), we swap opening weekends year to year, the extra days are needed. There are plenty of deer, there are too many in Cooper county, just look at all of them hit on roads and ask the farmers. I would like to see 3 weeks to be able to get more time in the woods.

These proposed crossbow changes will exponentially increase the number of hunting accidents state wide as they have in many other states. After speaking with the Conservation personnel at the meeting I could not be any more against these changes. They could not give any sound

reason other than increased revenue for the department. Instead of doing away with the second buck permit why not charge residents an additional 19.00 for it and make it a earned permit in which you must first harvest an antlerless whitetail before you can purchase it. Currently Archery season is what makes our great state stand out among the other midwest states. With that said, raise the price of non-resident permits by 75.00 and do as Iowa does. Make them first harvest an antlerless deer then they can harvest an antlered deer. The changes to the youth season is a great ideal. I'm all for that one and reducing the firearm season to 9 days would also help reduce the pressure placed on our herds. However, we need the urban hunts and some depend on harvesting several doe as a means to provide meat for their families. By placing more restrictions on conservation hunting land forces people to make poor decisions and also allows for higher priced leased land by forcing residents to find private land to hunt on instead the land they already pay taxes on. In all these proposed changes will make Missouri archery season unsafe, force some people to make poor decisions in feeding their families, cause unwanted and added hunting pressure by out of state hunters and in the end will not generate as much revenue for the MDC as the alternative methods suggested. It is for these reasons among many others that I am like most of the residents I have spoken with against these changes. I am an executive coordinator for a local royal ranger scouting group, and while we enjoy introducing young men each year to the sport of archery hunting we cannot with good conscious continue to promote this if these unsafe changes are accepted. Thank you for the opportunity to help continue to make Missouri a safe place to enjoy the outdoors.

I like the idea of having youth season during the thanksgiving holiday. I am not in favor of having only one archery buck tag. I would imagine that late season archery is a small portion of the deer harvest, for someone like me that does not have a promising place to firearm hunt, the late season is a time I look forward to. I am not sure placing a % to a harvest record that fluctuates is statistically accurate? Anyways, having crossbows in archery season is like having center fire pistols in muzzle loader season. I didn't like that either. Please do not take my late season buck tag away from my hopes of having a two buck archery season. I would like us to charge nonresidents the same price for our tags as they charge us for theirs. I realize these are not well argued arguments but the 4-5 buddies I've talked to have the same sediment as myself. thanks for reading my thoughts on the matter.

Currently the Missouri archery season is the one season in which we can take our children out into the woods and quietly pursue whitetail and eastern turkey without the fear of some rogue bullet taking away all that is precious. The changes you have proposed to allow anyone, including out-of-state hunters, to be able to use crossbows statewide. No other restrictions are mentioned in this proposal, which means there is going to be tremendous increase in the number of hunters flooding the woods during archery season. With equipment that manufacturers have compared to rifles some stating claims of accuracy up to 100 yards. We have already suffered a large-scale EHD epidemic that really hurt our population in 2013. We already have one of the lowest priced over-the-counter deer permits in the nation allowing thousands of out of state hunters to buy as many whitetail permits as they want. We already have a very productive rifle

rut hunt that keeps the population in a well-managed numbers. Can you imagine the added pressure this proposal would cause? Why do we need the added stress to our state, our herd, and ourselves? Why should we as citizens allow this happen? Why is our conservation department even considering such a proposal? I cannot answer for the state and local governments, but I can give you one Missouri resident's opinion: revenue. Plain and simple, money. I agree that our conservation department needs more revenue to continue the work they do. We have one of the greatest wildlife preservation departments in the country. However this proposal is not the way to make this happen. Let me make some suggestions. Implement the 4 point restriction state wide (this will increase the maturity and age of deer). Continue to allow second buck permits. However, these should be earned tags where archery hunters must first fill an antlerless permit even if they wish to donate the harvest. The price of the second permit should be the same \$19.00 for residents as the price of the first permit. All archery deer must be checked in at a local checking facility. This allows for a more accurate count and builds camaraderie between hunters. It would also assure that the four point restriction is being adhered to. Non-residents must first harvest an antlerless deer before harvesting a buck and the price of non-resident over-the-counter tags should increase proportionately as the quality of deer improves. Initially, we should increase non-resident permits by 75.00 per tag. Allow a special two day hunt to introduce youth to archery season. Allow kids under the age of 12 to hunt with a crossbow if they can't pull one of today's bows that range from 7-70lbs. Let's talk about the Crossbows. While I agree they have their place in the hunting industry, our state already provides ample opportunities to use one of these marvels of ancient history. Anyone can possess and use a crossbow to pursue whitetail during the firearm portion of the season and again during the alternative equipment portion. Also, anyone that has a written statement filed with the MDC by their Physician can use a crossbow during archery season. Safety First. The number one reason for injuries during hunting season is falls. I suspect that we can all agree on that. I have read many articles over the years of hunters tripping, falling, and discharging their firearms. Unfortunately, some of these accidents end with grave results. Now how many times have you heard of someone accidentally firing their compound or long bow while walking? Add a cocked and loaded crossbow to the equation and you have just increased the number of hunting accidents in the state of Missouri. Why not amend the proposed changes to include a requirement to unload these crossbows during transport? According to crossbow manufactures, if you dry fire a crossbow it can (and often does) result in serious injury or death. How many times has a firing pin snap killed someone? I snap my trigger each time after cleaning my firearms to relieve tension while storing, but I wouldn't try that with a crossbow. If you increase the number of hunters by 20-30% during archery season it is reasonable to assume that we will have 20-30% more accidents and injuries. We really don't need to give anti-hunters anymore fuel against our much loved sport. These proposed changes will allow gun hunters to hunt during archery season however it will eventually scare away archery hunters and most surely keep parents from taking their children to the woods or introducing them to the sport. It will hurt any retention plan for our youth and avid archers. making Missouri just another gun state. Let our Conservation Department know that we believe in them and given the right methods and ideals they can achieve their goals while keeping the

Ozarks a well-managed place to reside and safely call home. We can accomplish the goals desired by this great conservation department as stated above without adding risk to our archers.

I don't agree with most of the changes shorten rifle season is fine and changing youth season is ok too. Crossbow, I don't agree with or the 1 buck rule. Maybe up the price on non residents or a draw system I also wouldn't mind an earn a buck for your second archery buck tag.

I feel Mo would be wise to move the firearms season to a point "after" the normal rut peak is over. We only need to look to our neighboring states to the north and west to see the potential benefits. I feel we would see a lot more mature bucks in the MO deer population. That being said I suppose one less day would be better than not changing it. I am an archery hunter and I would support both proposed changes. I have no opinion on the Conservation Area Regulations proposals.

I support the use of a crossbow during archery season. I do not support eliminating the urban zones portion. I support simplifying the conservation area regulations.

Limit youth seasons to does only. They are thrilled to kill a deer. If they kill a nice buck it usually gives them unrealistic expectations and they do not hunt for very long. Iowa charges non-residents \$500 and limits the number of tags but let residents kill 4 bucks. They need to have the same standards if they come to Missouri. Archers should be able to kill 2 bucks. Few do and it keeps them out there.

I am only passionate about one of the proposed changes. I have nothing against crossbows but they are NOT archery equipment and should NOT be included in the archery season. An exception could be allowed in the case of a documented medical disability preventing one from drawing a bow by hand but short of that they should not be allowed as archery equipment. Put them/leave them in the Alternative Methods season.

I, among a lot of others, need the extra days to get enough time to hunt since we have to be at work and can't take vacation sometimes.

I don't feel that anymore restrictions need to be place on archery hunting it's hard enough to get that close to a deer no matter what it is, buck or doe. Archers should be allowed to take whatever they have the opportunity for. I'm not an archery hunter but my husband is. They're only allowed to harvest 1 antlered deer before firearm season as it is. No need to make it any more difficult than it already is. Many hunters hunt for the meat not a trophy. I just don't think the hardest method of hunting needs anymore restrictions on it than it already has. Thank you.

We are still seeing groups from 10 to 15 deer in a group moving about. If anything, limits should be increased to limit damage to our crops and even fruit trees and strawberry beds by our house. The amount of damage caused by deer-vehicle collisions is getting worse every year.

Bowhunters harvest 6% of the antlered bucks that are taken each year, do you really think limiting them to one buck is going to make any difference on buck population? And, how many bow hunters harvest more than one, leave it alone.

I think that limiting each person to 1 buck tag per archery season is a great idea. I do NOT think we should allow crossbows. I think that the late youth portion change is fine. I think the normal

rifle season should be pushed to December so those mature bucks can breed. I think we should also make the 4 point restriction STATEWIDE. My main concern is making Missouri a draw state so all these non resident hunters can't just come to Missouri and buy a deer tag and shoot our deer that we manage and work for every year just like Iowa, Kansas, and other states are draw only for Non Resident hunters.

I like all the changes.

No to shortening the rifle season and a definite no to crossbows allowed during archery. Archery hunting is a pure sport where skill and stealth is needed. Raising a crossbow like you would a rifle is not that.

I wish you would move first day of rifle season to Dec. 1 every year. Go to statewide 4 pt rule. I like the adding of crossbows to archery season.

Hello, if crossbows are allowed in the archery season then they should purchase a crossbow tag. Archery or crossbow one or the other but not both. They can still use the crossbow in the regular gun season and the primitive weapons hunt. One archery deer is ok with most bow hunters that I know. Shorten the season on archery 10-1 to 12- 31. My opinion probably won't count up against the big money pushing the crossbows. I have been bow hunting since the late 1960s. I'm a bow hunter first and also enjoy the gun season & muzzleloaders. Thanks, D.G.

Charge more for non resident.

I visited the Powder Valley meeting and there were not many questions answered, although recruit and retain seemed to be about the only answer. Does the MDC consider the inclusion of crossbows as an archery move that will benefit current archery hunters (180,000 of them)? While I see the crossbow inclusion possibly adding some youth hunters a couple years earlier before they otherwise would have began archery hunting with a bow, the inclusion seems to favor FIREARMS hunters that choose not to archery hunt under the current regulations. It comes on good authority and really a surprise to no one that anytime the archery hunters are "given" something, the firearms hunters must feel they have been given something as well. The proposed regulation to limit archery hunters to one any deer tag seems to completely abandon what the MDC has stood for, creating opportunity! The one archery any deer tag will completely eliminate opportunity for a segment of hunters at a cost of potentially saving a very, VERY few bucks (if we can trust the historical data of how many hunters kill 3 buck per season, and many of those include managed hunt bucks). Firearms hunters have the option to archery hunt if they would like the opportunity to kill a 2nd buck or 3rd for that matter. Wouldn't a better compromise be to allow hunters 2 any deer tags BUT, only ONE ANY DEER tag could be filled during any firearms seasons. That would not eliminate the opportunity and days afield for archery hunter wishing to hunt the 2nd half of the season after the initial firearms season. Again, no one at the Powder Valley meeting could answer what the projected crossbow inclusion hunter numbers added might be and what the projected impact to the kill numbers they might add. Unless they projections are extremely high why should the archers be reduce to the opportunity of only 1 any deer? Thanks for your time. B.P.

Everything looks good on the proposed changes EXCEPT eliminating the urban portions. As a person who lives in the rural area of Clay County, I see too many deer hit on the roads and have too many by my house. Last year I counted 15 hit on a 3 mile stretch of HWY 92 (this year only 8). The Clay County Park Dept has done a good job letting bow hunters thin some out but they cannot keep up. Maybe this is good (eliminating the urban season) in some areas but by Smithville Lake we need all the thinning we can get. Please consider the density populations before making a change.

Some of us taxpayers work shift work so weekend hunting may not always be an option. Shortening the season will affect the time available for shifter's to hunt. On another note, I would like you to consider letting landowners to be able to decide if we want to harvest a deer with less than 4 points on one side, I want to harvest meat, not antlers. It is a little hard to count the points and make a shot in thick brush at times. Thank you.

Leave the current season as is. Expand the youth season. Reduce the antlerless season. Leave the urban season as is. Allow crossbows for archery season-we are getting older and not as strong as we were, sometimes a bow is hard to pull with bad hands and shoulders. Reduce the limit for antlered deer. Leave the conservation areas as is, no need to reduce opportunities. Thank you.

I live in rural NW Missouri. I am a hunter and a row crop farmer. I also have a full time job. I hunt archery, rifle and alternative seasons. I hunt turkey and deer every season. I think it is great that the youth season will be extended and include days the children can hunt with their parents or mentors very easily! I don't agree with shortening the November or December hunting days or reducing the number of antlerless deer to be harvested. The increased days of hunting increase the chances I have to hunt due to bad weather and job related or family commitments. The deer numbers in NW Missouri are still VERY LARGE! We have numerous weekly kills of the beasts along our local roads and highways. This causes extensive damage to automobiles and unfortunately personal injuries on occasion. The damage our row crops endure is MASSIVE! They continue to devour our young sprouts of soybeans, corn and wheat. They also damage the crops during the growing and harvest seasons. Our crops have had the outside 20-30 rows simply stripped of crop along the edges of our fields that have border and CRP strips. This decreases our farm income considerably. They continue to multiply rapidly and the harvest in our area is not keeping up with the reproductive rates. We are aware that overpopulation of deer lead to CWD and other diseases. We need to keep harvesting them to keep the populations down. I believe the fees for out of state hunters is adequate, it generates a large amount of revenue for the areas where out of state hunters hunt. The lodging, food consumed, supplies purchased and fuel utilized is tremendous to these hunted areas. They come to Missouri due to the large deer populations and good hunting success rates. I am indifferent about the urban zones and crossbow changes, as these don't impact me.

Love the changes overall, hate to lose an archery buck tag but it's part of big picture. Love the rest, even crossbow. It gets more people involved and adds another option for people to pursue deer in their own way.

I don't like the use of crossbows during archery season, if you are using it to get more youths involved then at 16 they should have to start using a regular bow. I like to be able to shoot 2 bucks during archery season even though I've never shot one after gun season, it gives me a reason to go back out. I think more crossbows out there will kill more bucks. I think you should have mandatory check stations in the CWD zone to sample every deer that's taken in those units unless you have a wall hanger and don't want to have the throat or neck damaged. Also, you need to be tougher on these deer farms and shooting preserves before they ruin Mo. deer herd, your already playing catch up let's nip this before it gets any more difficult. Thank you.

Shortening rifle season to 9 days is fine. Youth season after Thanksgiving is fine. I do wish you would keep the antlerless season length alone regardless of time for selfish reasons as it allows the wife & I to have a better chance of getting more meat in the freezer as well as it opens up some local hunting opportunities that are not available during "regular" season. # day limit if accompanied by bitterly cold weather makes it hard on our old bones. For Archery, crossbows are fine. Reducing the Archery Buck tag to one is fine as well. One last thing, it is my understanding that most of these changes are not for biologic reasons but more in an effort to recruit & MAINTAIN younger hunters and that's all well & fine but be careful not to make it where the older people suffer, not that you are but just saying. Overall I think the MDC is doing a fabulous job & keep up the good work. The hunting and fishing opportunities make it a pleasure to hunt with others in different states and brag on what Mo has and how easy it is to enjoy.

Leave the 2 buck archery season as is. The % of hunters that kill a second buck with a bow is nothing and probably even lower for one to kill 3 bucks (1 gun, 2 bow). The opportunity to hunt late season (time off for some, Christmas holidays) just another reason to be outdoors. The opportunity to harvest a deer with a bow is tough anyway but you put a 150 inch buck in front of people (especially younger hunter) on a cold snowy day after sitting all day and all they have is a doe tag, what do you think will happen. If they don't shoot it, they may not come back next year because of the therapy classes they are in trying to cope with it. Let's don't make them criminals let's help them stay hunters forever and be great stewards! Make the whole state a 4 point rule. Antlerless Season, break the state into thirds (like water fowl seasons) for harvest regulations, # of deer and # of days per zone, (3 days in the N and 9 days in the S zone.) Manage the areas that need help differently than areas that don't. Let's remember we are helping Mother Nature not her helping us! Don't over compensate trying to fix it instantly. We stand the chance to lose young hunters if they can't hunt. There are also the economics that will be impacted, hotel, food, fuel, (small town cafe) they may not hunt but they should like for us too \$\$.

No Crossbows.

I think that if the deer population is down then this is an attempt to fix the problem. If it is about the conservation revenue there are some other methods that need to be included as to charging for landowner permits. Just say if conservation give away 50,000 landowner permits, if you charged a dollar per permit that is 50,000 dollars extra revenue, and as a hunter, I would even be willing to pay more for a hunting permit.

I am 100% against changing the number of antlered deer to one for Bow hunters. The REAL ISSUE is the unlimited number of out of state tags that are issued. Don't take away a buck from the hunters that have the smallest impact. RAISE NON RES, tags and go to a drawing! Don't worry so much about bringing in cash that you ruin the state! Kansas and Iowa both draw for out of state tags! Get on board.

I believe Mo could be as much or more of a big buck state as IA, KS, IL, OH, ect if we could take rifle season out of the rut all together, except the youth season portion. By moving it to December 1 rifle hunters could still get in on the secondary rut, which is still really good hunting. Let's face it, no matter what anyone says, we would all rather shoot a big mature buck than a 2 or 3 yr old buck with good potential. I don't think crossbows should be legal in the bow season except to disabled people because it makes it too easy and crossbows are too much like a rifle now days. Archers should still be allowed 2 bucks. Great idea on expanding the late youth season. I am an avid bowhunter and rifle hunter. I hunt 90+ days a year, I hope my insight helps in some way. Thanks.

I enjoy both bow hunting and rifle hunting. I would like you to consider only a one buck harvest limit per hunter. One tag that you can use in either season. But again one buck, any season, per calendar yr. I would also oppose crossbows being use during the regular bow season. The only exception would be for people with disabilities.

Allowing crossbows during archery season is a bad idea. It takes the challenge out of bow hunting. I think the people that need to use one due to a disability, should be able to. Otherwise, I think they should have to use typical archery equipment. Also, the non resident tags should be a draw or an honor system type tag. Example, Iowa tags are x amount and draw for x years until I get a tag. So, they should have to do the same to get a Missouri tag.

The MDC is caving to political anti-hunting groups from St Louis.

Please do not allow crossbows during Archery season. I cannot see how taking away the second buck tag for archery hunters will help much. Very few actually hunt after gun season and use this tag. It just takes away from the dedicated Archery hunter that does not gun hunt. Moving gun would benefit the herd the most in my eyes.

I'm not too happy on changing. Everything should stay the same except out of state tags. They need to go up. Bow season needs to stay the same. Then if you use crossbow to archery you would have the same amount of deer killed or maybe more kill in archery. So I would rather see out of state tags go up and have everything else stay the same. Thank you

Several people we know, ourselves included, have hit deer (not during deer season). For that reason, I don't believe enough deer were killed. The season should be extended, not shortened, in my opinion. Those of us in rural areas with hills and curves would like to see more safety by extending the season.

Make the antler less portion longer and set an 8 point rule would be a good start. Drop this cross bow business during the archery season. Move the gun portion to after the rut to give more bucks a chance to speed there genes. Leave the archery limit at 2 bucks but again set in affect a point

restriction. Leave the urban hunts the way they are. You put urban hunts in the areas needed. Deer are getting way overpopulated in these areas and need to be thinned out. We have to put in place the point restrictions and thin out the doe population in order to increase the quality of deer we are hunting. Thanks

Cross bows regulation should stay as it is currently. A crossbow is no different than a rifle, except for distance. Reducing the number of antlered bucks allowed during bow season should stay the same as well. If more does are needed to be harvested, require a doe be taken before buck can be harvested. I would like to add that more bow hunter education classes should be available. I have been wanting to take this class for years, but have not heard of any classes in my area.

I agree with all changes except the elimination of the urban portion, there are too many deer on the roads as it is, hunting in my opinion is the cheapest way to reduce the deer population in urban areas.

I agree with all proposed changes except the elimination of the urban portion.

I agree with all proposed changes with the exception of eliminating the urban portion of the deer season.

I agree with all changes except the proposal to eliminate urban hunting.

I'm not a happy camper. I think everything should stay the same on archery. Adding cross bow in, not good. The only thing that I would like to see is out of state tags go up. Adding crossbow for archery #1 I think more deer will be killed and a whole lot of Turkeys. Turkey population will go down fast with crossbow. I just want to see non resident tags go up and everything to stay the same. Thank you.

Very much in favor of reducing the days in the firearm season. I think one week would be great. That is all I have ever needed. I would like to see crossbows be made legal during archery season. Making the limit 1 buck during archery season and not two will benefit the deer herd greatly. Please please reduce the out of state firearm deer tag substantially. We have a family farm near St. Joe and it costs my brother and his family over \$1,000 to hunt. He has told me they will have to stop hunting in a year or so because they can't afford the tags. I know of several individuals that have told me their out of state relatives either do not hunt or hunt illegally without buying a permit because of the cost. MDC is not solely dependent on their revenue coming from out of state deer tags. Come on folks please do something to lower the out of state tag costs so families can continue to hunt together. This is the one thing I feel most strongly about!

I like the idea of one antler tag during archery season and the use of crossbows.

I think you people are totally stupid to do away with urban hunts. I know of 24 deer hit by cars from inside Nixa City limits to Highlandville during & since gun season. Several have been hit in & around Ozark including my wife which cost \$7200.00. Do you want me to send you idiots the bill? Furthermore, including crossbows in archery season is totally insane. Just as well turn people loose with a gun. And limiting methods on conservation areas takes a lot of people's

hunting area away. In closing, what are you people trying to do, let the deer take completely over? I think you need to rethink your ideas & do some of the changes by area only! I have totally no confidence or use for MDC! Just wait till we start hitting elk!

I strongly support the taking of only 1 antlered deer for all hunting seasons combined.

I like the idea to reduce the gun season to 9 days. I also like the idea of expanding the late portion of you the season. These young hunters are the future of our beloved past time any effort to help motivate young kids to get into the great outdoors I fully support. Reduce the length of antler less I support. I think we need to keep the urban zones. The proposed changes to archery season is the main purpose for my response. I completely disagree with making crossbows legal method. I understand this will attract gun hunters and potentially make mdc more revenue, but I thought the purpose of the conservation department was not about revenue but the health and preservation of plant and animal life. There is a constant misconception about crossbows that many people have that they are like a rifle point and shoot. This is true to a point but anything beyond 35 yards crossbows are not very accurate and you will be putting them in the hands of individuals that have chosen to not put forth the effort to learn how to use a bow so why would they put forth the effort to properly understand the capabilities of a crossbow. This will result in more deer and turkey being wounded. Archery is a skill it can be learned by anyone all it takes is effort I believe if people want to hunt during archery season they are able to do so now they just don't want to put the work in to do so. I also think the two buck method works good as it is it is very difficult to get on a buck after gun season how it is I don't believe there would be anything gained by cutting it to one. I for one just want to enjoy the outdoors and if I were to harvest a buck early that would limit the time I had to do so. I sincerely hope you consider my suggestions.

I oppose the change that would allow crossbows during the archery season. I feel that having a long bow season is appropriate because bow hunting is challenging and odds of success are low. Crossbow technology is such that it does not take much skill to operate one. I do not feel that crossbow hunters should be given the same amount of season as traditional bow hunters. I also oppose the change that would reduce the number of antlered deer taken during the archery season to one. The current laws are sufficient to protect the interests of all types of hunters. Rifle hunters are concerned about bow hunters taking all the bucks before they have an opportunity to get into the woods. The current regulation allows a bow hunter to take only one buck before the rifle season and an additional buck after the rifle season.

I agree with all changes except the use of crossbows. They are not primitive enough and allow less experienced hunters in the woods.

In relation to the doe only season. I would like to see the entire state of Missouri be allowed to have this season. Much of the state gets an extra few days to harvest their doe and can spend rifle season hunting for a buck knowing that they have a season a little later to kill their doe. I think the doe season and antler restriction should be state wide.

I agree with the proposed changes. Offering the crossbow to the bow hunting portion I think would be a plus also for ones that cannot handle a compound bow. The dates & duration is fine

also, the extra two days that fell on Monday & Tuesday was rarely used I felt. And the youth could use an extra weekend if possible.

I don't think crossbow should be considered for archery, it's just like a gun, loaded at all times. The hardest thing is to get drawn back on a deer with a bow, with a crossbow all you do is shoot. Deer wouldn't have a chance.

Firearms Season Changes: Reducing the days to hunt to only 9-days is extreme. So many of us have to use vacation time to hunt and narrowing it down to 9 days puts an undue pressure on hunters. This will only lead to more poaching and other game violations. Expand the late youth portion to 3-days beginning the first Friday after Thanksgiving. Reduce the length of the antlerless portion to 3-days and begin on the first Friday in December. How will this impact the buck population? A number of years ago an antler point restriction was put in place in order to increase the "large buck" population. It seems this proposed regulation change negate any effort the antler point restriction has made. Eliminate the urban zones portion. This, once again, seems incredibly extreme, and will only increase poaching and other illegal activities. I live in an urban area and seem to be overrun with an ever increasing deer population. Please don't go to this extreme. Archery Season Changes: Allow crossbows as a legal method during the archery deer and turkey season. Reduce the limit of antlered deer during the archery season to 1.

If crossbows are used in archery season it should only have a peep sight, not a scope of any kind. The people from out of state that own or lease land should be limited to one deer, not have the same limits and privileges as the people who live in the state. I have seen people that used to hunt that gave it up because they could not find a place to hunt and they could not compete with the high prices these out of state people are paying for land and leasing land that they had access to before the hunting clubs came to be. It used to be anyone could hunt, now it looks like you need to be rich to hunt. It's not right is it?

I agree with the proposals. It appears that most of them are focused towards the reduction in the harvest numbers.

Please Please Please do not let crossbow hunters hunt during the archery season. Too many hunters with little to no archery experience are going to be in the woods messing up the season for those serious archers. The traditional bow and arrow has long been a specialized weapons system which requires a considerable degree of training, physical strength and expertise to operate with any degree of efficiency. That is what archery season should be all about. Not to mention the deer are going to react to this by going nocturnal which will virtually shut down the season, affecting the firearms season as well. Leave it alone! Let the crossbow hunters hunt during the alternative weapons.

The regulations to the Firearms season is understandable and adaptable. However, archery season CANNOT be changed so dramatically. To open up the entire season to crossbow would ruin the sport. The traditional bows will become extinct and the challenge of killing a deer with a bow would be gone. I'm ok with increasing the exposure of crossbows but at a much lesser rate. Maybe allow men 55 and older use them and/or open up a trial crossbow season for a couple weeks in October. I understand trying to grow the sport of hunting as a whole, but you would be

crippling the hardcore hunters to a disadvantage and force them to use crossbows. The reason bow hunting is so addictive is the fact that it is not a sure thing. You get to enjoy a ton of wildlife waiting for that deer to come within 40 yards (not to mention having to draw back without them seeing you).

I think crossbows should only be allowed for disabled hunters in archery season. Not in favor of reducing antlered deer limit in archery season. In favor of reducing antlerless season to three days.

I agree with all of the proposed changes except for changing the length of the firearms season. Some hunters have to utilize vacation schedules to get days off to hunt. Not changing the length of the firearm season would enable those hunters a nonrestrictive hunting time.

I do not believe that crossbows should be openly allowed during the bowhunting portion. There is no skill involved in looking through a scope and pulling a trigger. They may as well be in the firearm portion. Bowhunters pride themselves on time put in and close skilled shots. If crossbows are permitted it takes away from the very spirit of bowhunting. I think that the law should remain the same, which requires a note from the doctor for use of a crossbow to enable older hunters and handicap people to enjoy the sport.

Not only myself but I think there are many Missouri hunting residents would like to see an Early Muzzleloading season. I know Arkansas and Kansas has one and this would be good for Missouri as well. I hope this is something that can be considered for a change 2016-2017 seasons. Thanks.

In response to the archery changes, I am a long-time bowhunter and have NEVER been surveyed on these issues. Why have I not been as a bowhunter, and when that might take place? Where do these suggestions come from? I completely disagree with the 1 antler tag during archery and believe it will only lead to more poaching. I also believe if anything it should be changed it should be that you can shoot 2 before rifle season then so be it. You should not have to wait until after rifle. I believe the majority of archery hunters will not kill 1 antlered deer let alone 2. With the difficulty, time and effort you have to spend to be successful at it if you get the chance to take two before rifle then why shouldn't you be able to? If the concern is still there maybe add an antler restriction to the second one if it is taken before rifle. Ex: You may use both antlered deer permits before rifle season given that one is used on a deer with at least 4 (or 5) tines on one side. etc. No one is stopping the rifle hunters from grabbing a bow and getting out there so why should we be punished? As for the crossbows, what a joke! You might as well just make it a 5 month rifle season. Not to mention if you are too lazy to use a real compound bow then you are probably the type of person to take questionable shots as well. I believe this will only lead to more injured deer and hunting accidents. Finally, do you think that a healthy, vibrant, highly admired archery deer season that we enjoy in Missouri should be jeopardized and perhaps subjected to the results of Georgia and Tennessee? As for the out of state issues. I think more constraints should be added to it. Why are we the only state to allow anyone and there brother to come in for \$250 and kill our deer that we work for. Maybe add a lottery? At the bare minimum raise the prices significantly.

As an avid hunter I would be okay with the nine day deer season as long as there are 2 weekends still due to the fact that I work during the week and at times I am not able to take off during the week days. Also, I would truly appreciate crossbows being made legal to use for turkey and deer archery season as I do have disabilities that limit me and my 12 gauge is getting rough on me to shot. Thank you for hearing me. Hope this helps with your decisions.

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I agree with all the changes except the archery season cross bow change. Archery is meant to be more challenging and, in my opinion, using a cross bow would be way easier than a bow. Plus in my opinion, archery season is more for the dedicated hunter no weekend warriors like gun season I hunt public ground in warren county and its great cause bow season there's no one hunting but rifle season its swamped with people, or as I like to call, weekend warriors-people who really don't care aren't true woodsman. I believe if anyone can use a cross bow you will see a lot more weekend warriors out there and I believe you will see a lot more poaching.

I would like to see the cross bow for all of regular archery and rifle season. I think you would get a lot of new hunters, women and older retire people who cannot pull back these 65 to 75 compound bows.

Proposals first seen in the Missouri Wildlife magazine. Start the Nov. portion 1 week earlier and reduce to 9 days. No on expanding the youth season to 3 days and especially not on Thanksgiving weekend. That would interrupt/shatter many FAMILY plans and visits which is already too prevalent. I like hunting but family MUST come first. Yes on reducing the antlerless portion to 3 days. first Fri. in Dec., OK. Urban zone, no comment. NO on allowing crossbows. That would encourage even more non-marksman type shooters flinging arrows causing even more wounded suffering. In my 44 yrs. on the farm, by far the most dead/wounded deer were arrowed. Yes on reducing antlered deer to 1 during archery season.

Eliminating the second archery buck tag, in my opinion, helps nothing. I personally want to be able to hunt early and late season for a target buck. Allowing crossbows to the regular archery season I feel is a mistake. More pressure on public ground for all bowhunters. Allowing only one buck per method is also a bad idea for hunters. I personally enjoy every part of deer season with each method. I feel that I should be able to bowhunt and rifle hunt for a buck.

I would really like to see the use of a crossbow for all of the Archery hunting season, would enjoy going deer hunting on my 75 acres if this was available.

I think firearms should be changed to shotgun muzzleloader and shorten the time as is being proposed. I don't agree with the crossbow use for a capable individual. Also, non-resident tags should be closer to the cost of a few neighboring states.

Firearm Season Changes: Reducing the length to 9 days is a bad idea. Expand and change date of 2nd youth season is also a bad idea. I realize the youth are the future of conservation etc. BUT adopting your proposal is NOT beneficial to the adults who are currently buying the permits etc. Urban zones: Do whatever you want. Archery Season: Crossbows legal during archery season: YES what took you so long to figure it out? Reduce the buck harvest: NO because that will just lead to more doe kills which will reduce the herd numbers. The herd is small enough. Conservation Area Regs: Yes, please make those regs standard for all CA's. An even better idea is to make them all the same as statewide regs. Finally, next time you are going to hold a comment meeting try letting me know BEFORE the meeting. The Powder Valley meeting was 2/26. I received the announcement on 2/27. That leads me to question your desire to find out what we think.

The rifle season changes are fine and youth hunts as well. The archery season is fine with reducing the number of bucks hunters can harvest. Now, the problem I do have with archery season is allowing crossbows during the whole archery season. The fair way to allow this is do like the state of Kentucky and set a 2-3 week season in for crossbow use. A rifleman and a bow hunter are two completely different types of hunters and a crossbow is just like a rifle. Flip the safety off and pull the trigger. Respect each hunters culture of the way they hunt and allow them their own time in the field.

I would not reduce the length of the firearms deer season. This puts a lot of folks that only rifle hunt and are still trying to shoot a buck (holding out for the big one) out of nearly 20% of their season. With all the other changes proposed this seems like the negative attitude/complaints about 2 less hunting days outweigh the little benefit we would get from the shortened season. Moving the late youth season before muzzleloader season seems as if we are promoting hunter recruitment at the cost of hunter retention (that may make sense to do so in the long run, I am not sure). I have heard a lot of complaints from middle age to older hunters that do not mind one youth season before "their seasons" but are not in favor of this as well as the perceived negatives of other regulation changes such as crossbows. Eliminating the urban zones portion makes sense, to put deer management responsibilities on the municipalities should create more hunting opportunities state wide. One idea I have heard, and like, regarding crossbows is to introduce crossbows slowly; allow youths and anyone over say age 60 use crossbows and require exemptions from the rest of the hunters. After a few years see what public perception is at that point. This achieves our hunter retention and recruitment goals without "hurting" the rest of the archery community. Another idea that I really liked from the deer meetings regarding reducing antlered deer during archery season to 1 was: to allow 2 antlered deer to archers, but basically their unfilled firearms tag became their second any deer tag after firearms season. This isn't that confusing and would cut back on bucks harvested while still allowing archers the opportunity at 2 bucks a season. Simplifying conservation area regulations makes a lot of sense the way it is currently proposed.

I am ok with all change but the crossbow change. I DO NOT think crossbows should be allowed during regular bow season, unless you are have a disability to pull a regular bow. Thanks.

I don't think crossbows should be allowed in archery season. They may as well be using a gun with the speed of the new crossbows. Most archery hunters have put many hours in and take pride in being a good shot. Anyone can pick up a crossbow and shoot. It's just not good for archery season. Thanks.

I like the one buck limit for archery and what I don't like is the idea of making crossbows legal for archery season. I feel it takes away from the people who practice year round with bow and arrow. Across bow takes about as little skill as it takes for firearms hunting. If crossbows were a legal weapon for archery season I could have shot many of deer, but that's what makes archery season special is the skill it takes to take deer with bow and arrow. I feel it will attract the same hunters who only come out into the woods during firearms season and shoot only bucks. Another thing that I would like to see is more strict regulations on what medical reasons should qualify for a doctors crossbow permit for hunting deer. Obese and lazy should not qualify someone for a crossbow permit. A couple things that I do like are: 1) the 8 point rule for bucks. Mainly within the past 4 years I have starting to see bigger and better deer than before the rule was put in to place. More deer are being left mature and better chance to reach their potential. 2) I belong to the Cuivre River Wildlife Management Area and I like that the Conservation dept is helping people who are interested in improving their land.

I am opposed to the "Firearms Season Changes." I have been hunting deer in Barry, Newton, and Lawrence counties in Missouri since 1982. I have never seen as many deer as I have in the last three years in these counties. At times I have seen groups of 30 in a field. Also more bucks than I have seen in the past 30 years. Also more dead deer along the roads than I have ever seen before. I do not favor reducing the permits or days of hunting in the above mentioned counties. I do favor the changes recommended for "Archery Season Changes" and "Conservation Area Regulations."

Disagree with proposed change to reduce firearms season by 2 days. Please don't expand the youth by taking away from us who have to work weekends and need those weekdays. Sometimes ya just can't get vacation time on a weekend when required to work weekends, Capishe?

The only change I disagree with is to allow crossbows for the archery season. I know people that have crossbows and its just unfair to allow them in archery season. I've been bowhunting my whole life and I truly hope you will not allow crossbows! The rest of the changes are great.

I would like the changes made to the regulations. I think it would help a lot.

I am not in favor of reducing the firearms season unless you offer an additional muzzle loader season. Do not reduce the antlerless portion. Not a fan of reducing the antler deer numbers for archery but will support if you do not reduce the firearm season. Most the public has limited time to hunt, so reducing the amount of days will severely restrict those of us who can't afford the new time frame.

I like all of the proposed rules for the 2016 deer season. I really would like the opportunity to use a crossbow during the archery season.

I think shortening the gun season is good on both regular season and antlerless is good you can limit it to one buck for archery and gun but I would keep youth season the same I really think the kids should just go when the regular season is that's what the hunt is about going to deer camp.

Agree to all proposed changes

I like the urban hunt so I can try for a buck during the regular firearms portion I usually just want one deer unless it's big.

A Missouri land owner should not be required to purchase a Nonresident hunting license.

All the new changes for 2016-17 are perfect! I am all for all the new proposals! Keep up your great work and thank you. MDC is the best in the country!

I would prefer that crossbows only be allowed after deer firearms season in November.

The use of a crossbow during archery season would be fantastic, especially for us old guys. If nothing else have it legal for hunters over sixty years of age.

A Missouri land owner should not be required to purchase a Nonresident hunting license.

I fully endorse all of the changes presented. Would like to see rifle season changed to a later date not during the rut. Hopefully changing the youth season will influence this in the future.

I am concerned about allowing crossbows during the archery season due to the fact I believe the art of archery hunting with either a compound bow or a long bow will eventually be lost with our younger hunters. Thank You!

I do not like the idea of allowing crossbows as a legal method during the archery deer and turkey season. My favorite time to hunt is bow season. I do not want bow season to become like gun season where many people grab a cross bow that they only shoot once a year go out and wound a deer.

We own a 400 acre plus farm in McDonald county. We have seen a very noticeable decline in quality bucks and would like consideration for a 3-4 point rule on bucks in the future. Does have shown a decline since 2010/11 during a two year drought which resulted in a die off from disease in our area. We are fortunate to have had a strong deer population in the flag spring area and hopefully there will be a turnaround in years to come bringing back great deer numbers. Your agency has been very helpful to us in cost sharing (food plots-seasonal watering holes) bear studies and feral hog eradication and we look forward to hearing from you. Thanks for your consideration in this matter.

I am in favor of the changes you have described with one exception, I think crossbows are not the same as archery, they fire like guns and provide too much of an advantage, with the exception of Handicap Archery Hunters.

Read the changes and looks like you guys did your usual. Got input and did little. All you had to do was bite the bullet and fix the problems but just virtually kicked can down the road like you have with quail, pheasants and turkeys. You need to listen to your agents and people who raise the game rather than just satisfy the urban demands. With the exception of predators, our wildlife is in trouble. Look to Iowa and Illinois for deer management ideas. Way too much pressure on

animals for too long a time and eight point restriction is ruining genetic pool not alone creating carries for CWD.

PLEASE reinstate check in facilities in counties such as Adair where disease/blue tongue is a problem. I have been told that MDC has needlessly killed deer to test them. This could be avoided if hunters were required to physically check deer @ a checking station.

Please consider delaying the firearms season until December to allow for an older age class of deer within the population and restricting amount of does a hunter is able to take to allow for a quicker response and recovery of the population which has been dramatically reduced/ in decline the last few years.

From the maps shown on the MDC website, the current deer population in the southwest portion of the state is where the department wants it. So reducing the number of deer taken by hunters would be counterproductive. When the topic of allowing crossbows during archery season was brought up last year, MDC's reasoning was that we were losing hunters over 40 due to physical restrictions. We already have in place regulations to handle that scenario. Adding hunters then having to reduce the number of deer we can harvest to offset the added hunters is a waste and more hunters who practice less makes safety a bigger concern than ever.

I believe you should not allow the crossbow and leave it at two bucks. Also, nonresident tags should be the same cost as there state charges us.

The archery season is way too long. I spend most of my fall running off archery hunters trespassing on our farm. Normally in groups and some from out of state. They take a lot of does and don't spend a lot of time looking for wounded deer as we have found several this last season after birds have marked their position on the farm.

Though I appreciate the effort of trying to better the states deer hunting it is mind numbing that these are the proposals. A 2 buck limit and implementation of crossbows need to happen for sure but the bigger conservation issue is the RIDICULOUS rifle season. Until the state addresses this for the betterment of the herd, other changes are going to be inconsequential. MOVE the rifle season to open the first Saturday in December and quit decimating the bucks during the rut. Any biologist worth his/her degree knows this is what really needs to happen to truly improve anything. But after living in the state for 4 years and listening to all the crap about tradition, I won't hold my breath. There are plenty of people who shoot deer but very few deer hunters. So my comment as one of the few actual hunters is move the rifle, you know I am right.

These changes look good. Deer are very hard to find late in the gun season, so shortening it is good. Crossbows, which I use, are more accurate and will lessen wounded deer and help youth get into the sport. Also, I hope the legislature will leave most if not all of the MDC funding in tack. Good luck and thanks.

Change firearms season to week of thanksgiving.

Good with most, but do not want to see the antlered deer reduction for archery. We still have a good area with lots of deer for the antlerless portion in St. Charles County. We would like to see that continue.

I'm in agreement with the proposed changes. I really like the 4 pt restriction for the northern counties. Where we hunt in Northern Missouri I feel the effects of EHD were seriously under reported. One thing that I disagree with is our non resident deer prices. I hunt in both Iowa and Kansas, and I'm sure you're well aware of their CONSIDERABLY higher prices for us to hunt there.

Please do not allow crossbows as part of the regular archery seasons. Reducing the number of bucks allowed to be taken with a bow will only reduce the number of people hunting after gun season.

I don't think it is a good idea to make crossbows legal. Deer numbers have been decreasing and the use of crossbows will increase the bow harvest. Maybe implement the use of crossbows once the deer numbers have increased.

Stop charging out of state land owners excessive fees. They pay the same real estate taxes as in state landowners. If I owned land in KS and lived in Missouri, I would not have to pay non-resident fees.

Should allow use of crossbows.

While your comments concerning the shortened deer season appear correct, my concern is about the youth season which normally occurs the week before regular firearms deer season. For the past several years I have noticed many antlered deer being taken by youths many from 6-12 years old. It amazes me that these young hunters are able to take many trophy bucks. I know of many cases where these young hunters were assisted by older family members. My family farm has been used for deer hunting since the season began. Over the years sons, grandsons/daughters have harvested deer here, however none were below age 12. My other concern is with out of state hunters who come here shoot trophy deer, cut off the heads and throw the carcasses on or near my property. Our game warden is a great individual, but he can't be available for such a large area. Too bad you haven't addressed these problems.

I am for the proposed changes but I would eliminate the youth season.

Do NOT allow crossbows except for the handicapped during any archery season.

I disagree with the proposal to limit antlered deer in bow season, and to leave intact the unlimited antlerless permits. To increase the herd, ANTLERLESS deer are the most needed. The unlimited antlerless deer permits during bow season depletes the herd. I would also like to see non-resident land-owner permits reinstated.

How about a nonresident landowner tag system similar to other states for people owning 40 acres or more and doing some habitat work (most are) offer a discount. There are not near the amount of aged bucks in Scotland county that there should be due to rifle hunting during the rut, no county by county mgmt. system, and too much habitat loss. Start a roadside warm season grass program and I will participate since there are no quail around anymore. Your bucks are not worth \$225, sorry. Too many hunters, too little places to hide. I am the only one in my neighborhood doing much for habitat. Illinois has better bucks but land prices and taxes are too high for most.

I hunt in Ill as well as MO. When I cross the river into IL an antler tag cost around \$450.00. When they (IL) cross the river they can get an antler tag for \$225.00 in MO, that isn't fair or sound business. Why can't you establish a state by state reciprocal fee.

The 9 from 11 days for firearms season is good. The change in the late youth portion is good. However, the early youth portion should not start the day after Halloween. Kids don't like waking up early after being up late. Crossbows, I believe, should be allowed. I don't think we would have near as many wounded, unrecovered, deer. I have heard two different things on the 1 buck limit. I've heard just 1 buck for archery season and I've heard 1 buck for all seasons combined. I would be for 1 buck for firearm, alternative combined plus 1 buck for archery. I think the antlerless season should be stopped completely. I believe the CA's regulations should be somewhat more uniform. If an area like Shawnee Trails, is mostly crops, strip pits, and woods, why are firearms not allowed? Currently, only archery and muzzleloader methods are allowed. Also if an area only allows muzzleloaders, why not a shotgun with slugs? The slug will travel far less than the muzzleloader bullet. The Urban portion should be stopped. On the cost of a nonresident deer permit, I think Missouri should charge a nonresident the same as the state that that hunter is from.

The timing of firearms season is way off and getting worse every year. The rut will usually fall around the 10th of November. Therefore, the season should start on the 7th this year not the 14th. Whoever, came up with making the opening day closest to the 15th of November? What were they smoking? Lol. You also screw up the spring turkey season by having it too late. The spring turkey season should start the first or second Monday of April. Look at the other states around us. Some start in March. You just wrote in the Conservation magazine that the gobblers will start in mid-March. Well why are you waiting until the end of April to start the season? When I first started hunting turkeys in the 70's, the season would be right in the thick of the gobbling. You have pushed the season back so far, the gobblers are almost done by the time the season starts. Will the hens be bred? Yes, but they will get bred even if we take out some early season gobblers. The jake's will step up and have a chance to breed. So, why make it so late? Conservation over thinks things too much. You should be providing us with our best opportunities to be successful in the deer and turkey seasons. One of the ways would be to allow us to hunt at the peak of their mating times. I wish conservation would clear and plant something in the old fields in Washington and Crawford counties. Provide more food habitat for the deer herd. There's no farming in these counties anymore and the nut crop has been down the last 3 years.

I'm strongly against allowing crossbows to be legal for archery season except for approved exempt medical reasons. When Pennsylvania made this very same change 4 out of every 5 deer killed during archery season were taken by a crossbow. This is too much! We have a liberal length to the bow season let's not make it easier to take deer. It's too much of an advantage for the hunter

I have already made comments on the proposed deer hunting regulations. I would like to comment on how I think the MDC could better serve the "deer hunter". Too many CAs have too

few or none at all, places for deer hunters to set up a deer camp. For instance, Talbot CA has one small area for all hunters to camp in. There are almost 4000 acres at Talbot and only one designated camp area. I'm sure cost has a great deal to do with this. Deer hunting brings in over 11 billion dollars of revenue to the state. Yet money is spent on horseback riding trails at Talbot. Why is it that MDC can pay to have horseback riding trails maintained, but can't afford to put in more camping areas for the deer hunters that bring in the revenue?

I think the current November firearms season is adequate, with little to gain by changing the timing or length. I would support the youth season proposed change to help encourage more youth participation. I would also support the proposed change to the antlerless season to better control doe populations. I don't have enough info to comment on the urban zone. I don't think the limit of 1 deer for archery would have much impact, at least not nearly as much as a statewide 3 or 4 point antler restriction would if you will consider that. I do, however, want to express my objections to any fee increases. Please consider the point from a non-resident landowner's view: I own 400 acres in Oregon County, which is only timber land with some wildlife openings my family established. We have to spend considerable amounts of money each year maintaining the property, which in turn contributes significantly to wildlife conservation. We manage the property for quality deer hunting, and have for over 10 years. That said, my entire family enjoys hunting, but for myself, my wife, and 3 children to hunt our own property just for deer and turkey would cost just under \$2100 this year alone! Because of this, we do not get to enjoy our property to the fullest. My wife has stopped hunting, and my oldest daughter has stopped hunting. We all used to enjoy deer and turkey seasons as a family together, but that is becoming a thing of the past. I think if you are going to consider a fee increase, you should consider going back to the lower fees for landowners as you did in the past. Missouri has good quality hunting opportunities, but the Ozarks are not KS, IA, or IL. Please do not become like these states and start discouraging participation through unreasonable permit increases just to increase revenue. Thank you for the opportunity to express my views; I am sorry I cannot attend a public meeting.

reducing the number of firearms days is a huge plus

Cross bows should not be allowed in archery season.

My issues with MDC deer management: I am a practicing qdma member in central and southeast Missouri. My family and I have been managing whitetails for over 12 years. I believe Missouri should implement the 4 point rule throughout the whole state and especially in southeast Missouri and here is why. I don't understand why Wayne & Stoddard counties do not have a restriction as Wayne was one of the top in the state in total kills last year I believe. I am very disgusted that anyone who buys a tag can kill bucks under 8 points. I have seen my hunting area and 2 family farms in Wayne county have very little mature bucks year after year because surrounding landowners are shooting anything that is brown with four legs and especially YOUNG bucks. Bucks should be 4 points on one side to be legal statewide. Our surrounding states including Iowa, Kansas, Illinois are well surpassing Missouri in the area of whitetail management and trophy management because of their excellent management practices. Missouri makes it too easy for out of state hunters to come to the state to shoot our deer. The price tag is

not enough for these hunters and Missouri needs to have a drawing system like its neighbor to the north Iowa. In Kansas an out of state tag is around \$700. Wow! What is it in Missouri? Our state is flooded with hunters from across the country filling up leases and killing mature whitetails for around \$225. That's a joke not to mention the number of out of state tags are not limited. I spend year round working on whitetail habitat, food plots, timber stand improvement etc all for my love of wildlife. I spend lots of money on mineral, food, and fuel to name a few to keep up with both hunting areas across the state (central and southeast mo) to better improve our states quality of wildlife to leave to the next generation. I can easily say that I am almost ready to go to another state to hunt because of the lack of management practices in Missouri and especially SE Missouri. In my opinion, and opinions of my friends, family and other qdma members, it seems like MDC is more concerned about a financial gain and how many tags they sell than they are with proper humane management. I understand our youth is the future of deer management and the sport of hunting and kids have to be having FUN to be interested. But Let's teach our youth the correct way to do things instead of giving or handing everything to them for a change. For example, the statewide youth hunt is held during the pre rut (late October or early November) which is the best time of hunting season (archery) for most with the rut coming up. The next wknd is opening of rifle season. So all these kids flood the woods harvesting many large mature whitetails and leaving thinking "oh deer hunting is easy". What did we teach that kid? Why not make it mandatory statewide for our youth to shoot a doe for their first deer and they must donate half of the meat to the hungry (with the donation free of course). After they have done this they would be able to harvest a buck with 4 points on one side the following year. Just because they are youth doesn't mean they do not have to play under the same rules as everyone. What message are we trying to send to them? Let's make it FUN but make them learn there is a responsibility to be considered a hunter for both the humanity of the sport and for the respect of the wildlife.

I agree with reducing the number of days in firearm season and to expand youth season and also allow crossbows to be used in archery season.

I agree with the proposal on crossbows and I do think rule simplification for conservation areas is way past due. Reduction of a limit of 1 antlered deer for archery is acceptable. HOWEVER, reduction in the number of days for the regular season, antlerless season and total elimination of the urban section is not good. The extra days for the regular are beneficial more for landowners because usually pressure is less the last @ days from city hunters. In my area we still have large herds and antlerless assists culling and I do not see a great decrease in numbers in the designated urban areas. In fact I see more! It might be more advisable to do a special tag drawing for the urban area similar to the ones for conservation areas if you're worried about herd impact. Increasing youth days is good. I think a closer of county to county herd population is needed so regs can be fitted to those counties. I live in south St.Clair county and you cannot even tell we had a harvest! But in overview, NO reduction in hunting days! Possibly reduction for a temporary time to deer per person per season i.e, 1 archery 1 regular 1 special weapons 1 for urban ect.

I agree with most of the changes you have proposed except allowing crossbows for archery hunting. As accurate as crossbows are plus taking out the challenge of drawing back on a deer without it seeing you, plus the added number of hunters, I predict the number of deer killed during the archery season will at least double. If you are wanting to increase deer numbers that is definitely not the way to do it.

There are only two issues that I will address. First off, isn't the purpose of a bow hunt supposed to be more of a challenge. It seems to me that allowing crossbows is defeating the purpose on a "bow" season. Put the limit back to two and forget the crossbows. Secondly, with the huge interest in harvesting quality mature whitetail bucks, wouldn't you be ahead by moving the firearms season back from one to two weeks avoiding the mass slaughter of immature bucks during peak rut? Very few hunters hunt for meat anymore, they all want a chance at a mature buck. Why not manage the seasons like the states that surround us and avoid the rut. While I realize that more mature bucks are harvested now than ever before, I also realize that it has less to do with your deer management practices rather than vast amounts of our best hunting land is now being owned and managed by wealthy landowners and outfitters. Why not have the best of both worlds? Avoid the rut at all costs and give us every day Joe's the same chances as the well to do.

I support the proposed changes. I especially appreciate the 3 day youth season proposal. For those with religious objections to hunting on Sunday, it will give the children 2 days to hunt on Friday and Saturday.

Move rifle season out of the rut. No to crossbows during archery season, you can use them during firearm season. Only 1 buck during archery? Why penalize the archer again? How about 2 total bucks combined. These changes would be more tolerable with change in firearm season out of rut. Limit out of state tags and charge as much as neighboring states. I doubt this comment will make any difference.

Strongly in favor of: Expand the late youth portion to 3-days beginning the first Friday after Thanksgiving. In favor of: Maintain the current timing of the November portion and reduce the length to 9-days. Allow crossbows as a legal method during the archery deer and turkey season. Against: Conservation Area Regulations - Simplify conservation area regulations by limiting methods and use of firearms and archery antlerless permits. Strongly against: Reduce the limit of antlered deer during the archery season to .

Most of the changes are crazy. I'm a bow hunter, why take away the second buck but make it easier to kill them with crossbow? Also, why not change gun season to Dec like most big buck states? I think adjusting gun season by 2 days doesn't really do anything. I think a statewide 4 pt restriction is a must. Hunters in sw Missouri seem to kill as many deer as possible no matter the age. Doe numbers are up in Lawrence county in the areas I hunt so limiting those doesn't seem right, but I do know some areas where hit hard.

I am strongly AGAINST shortening the current firearms season, antlerless only season and eliminating the urban area season. If there are not enough deer in North Missouri, don't change regulations statewide. My area of SW MO has a rapidly increasing deer herd and can sustain

current and even previous limits and seasons. Why allow crossbows if we are harvesting too many deer and tightening regulations/limits? Youth season changes are fine, no complaint.

PLEASE, PLEASE do not move the youth weekend to Thanksgiving. My boys and I are preparing to pack for the FAMILY weekend at Windemere next weekend - stressing FAMILY! I have grave concern about the impact on families if you schedule the youth hunt the weekend of Thanksgiving. I fear a tremendous number of families will experience turmoil and arguments about planning FAMILY visits and events around the hunt, rather than the holiday. Thanksgiving is celebrated with family more than Christmas and this proposed change could NEGATIVELY impact families coming together by forcing them to choose between a hunt and visiting or hosting family. The MDC has always promoted family - especially the development of the family unit. I recognize that many potential hunters will likely have a long weekend, but almost EVERY hunter I know simply takes one day off for this even or the regular season hunt. I implore you to reconsider this proposal - I am totally opposed to it. I suggest you 'poll' the families who go to the family weekend at Windemere and see who would support it - I promise I will be one of the first to oppose it.

Agree with proposed changes except you should have a \$50 CA fee for out of state hunters and you should not go to the single buck for archery, which is nothing more than a witch hunt by rifle hunters that haven't gotten a buck due to EHD and overharvest and need someone to blame. I have not seen any data presented for this argument. Unlike your other regulations, that are speculative in what might happen. For this topic, you have data of how many archers take two bucks and what minimal impact it is on the population. It is not right that you throw it out there without the data for people to make an educated decision. I think people who don't archery hunt or don't hunt after the rut have no appreciation for how hard it is to get that second buck, while they are allowed to assume the success rate of the second buck is high or unfair to rifle hunters not getting the same option. What is ironic is that you will allow the increased harvest of button bucks through unlimited archery tags while proposing to stop harvest of mature bucks (I would love to see the data of how many button bucks are shot versus two mature bucks by archers). Why not address the real problem and allow two bucks to be harvested with button bucks counting as one of those bucks. I have friends that essentially harvest a half dozen bucks every year by shooting button bucks cause they are easy prey. Arkansas uses this management tool even with firearms to make people select larger animals (which is the point of your 4 point rule). There needs to be more education of how to identify a button buck and introduce the fact that hunters need to be aware that they can choose to not harvest small deer if it might be a button buck. You should present a model of the growth of your buck numbers with the absence of button buck harvest. Just being passive to the fact bb are casualties of antlerless deer without helping the public understand the problem is shortsighted. Archery would be the place to start this education and regulation experiment. Also, the single harvest of a buck in archery will limit the enjoyment or motivation to hunt after the gun season, I make tag buying MDC supporters like me downright pissed off. I hate it. I would like to see you discourage management hunts that use the earn a buck method, this also promotes the shooting of a button buck, limits satisfaction

of the hunter, increases stress on an otherwise enjoyable and expensive hunt, and really doesn't address your goals. If you want to harvest does, then give out 3 or 4 tags, let people shoot a buck then stick around with their party and shoot some does. I think this method is completely misguided and have never enjoyed a management hunt I was on that used it. My experience has been that our party ends up shooting yearling deer that include button bucks in an effort to get on with buck hunting and waste a full day of hunting to do it (I would rather shoot a buck and go on to harvest a couple mature does or not shoot anything and come home satisfied. It is further a more terrible idea when using it for a youth hunt. I would like to see some data that shows this method meets your management goal, h--l I would like to see what your management goal is for this method in general. Relative to your regulations on conservation areas you will again find that no one uses your tax paid CA's for archery past November because you don't allow any methods to shoot deer on them. The landowners next to the areas must really love this proposal, but I don't. If you are going to take away a second buck, you better give up some antlerless tags for your CA's, oh wait, then that leads to less deer being killed, but I thought we were supposed to kill them all a few years ago, oh wait that was just for the rich that have large farms that they can lease to out-of-state hunters while also using farm subsidies. Why spend money on food plots and manage the land if you won't let anyone on them during half the deer season. Come on guys, you let the leasees and farmers squander the resource for the last 7 years, then put the burden back on the rest of the populace. I hunt MDC land in the late season and there are few if any hunting deer with any method, if you put more deer back in the state, they will be on MDC lands, you can't do it by managing your small parcels for the rest of the state, but you can p--s a lot of people off by trying. You guys don't need the money to let out of state hunters r--e our resources any more (7\$ tag in 2009 was shameful, \$50 now is still irresponsible considering the burden you are putting back on Missourians). I knew guys taking 20 does back to Utah during your "kill em all for the farmers offensive" and now you want to say we can't hunt a second buck with a bow, seriously, those 20 does would have produced 10 times the number of bucks would ever hope to shoot with late archery season. You need to make it prohibitive for out of state hunters to take a bonus doe. Trying to please the farmers is and end sum game, they didn't like you when you started and they won't like you when you are done, but you are going to lose your base of support not taking care of the one's that do support the agency. You are going to lose support for your 1/8 sales tax if you don't let people use the land they bought. You guys should consider a CA use tag for out of state hunters. Up North, people pay for a 3 day lease hunt, then come early and stay late and hunt CA's crowding my hunt cause they already paid for the tag and don't have anything to loose. They don't pay the 1/8th tax all year and they shoot the deer on the private ground running off the CA the next day. There are guys from Louisiana doing deer drives at 8 in the morning and my buddy almost got shot by poachers from Arkansas using a .22 mag during archery season. Most guys just go walk hoping to get lucky, cause they don't care if deer run off the area because their private 3 day hunt is the next day so they have no concern for the area they trash. Having a \$50 CA fee tag would at least, limit casual intrusion of "lucky" hunters, and give your agents another ticket to write or excuse to check for illegal activity.

I am against shortening the main gun season to 9 days, and the 11 day season is too short in my opinion. I had hopes that MO would lengthen the season to a month someday. Where I'm from in the South the season is two to three months long and they can't believe how short the MO season is. My main reason to keep it longer is to help hunters like me who have trouble being free to hunt in the very short season. My work schedule at B. consistently gives me trouble on being able to hunt in the limited number of days of the season. It is easy for me to miss the short season, because I am not able to hunt because of work. Having a longer season gives more opportunity to hunt if part of the season is missed. I started booking a week of vacation for hunting months ahead of time, and even then it has been a hassle almost every year trying to get off those specific hunting days. I've almost had fights with my management over this. Non-hunting managers can't understand why I can't slide my requested vacation time a week or two. Almost all the deer killed are in the first few days, so shortening the season isn't going to really affect the kill numbers. I don't think you gain anything with a shorter main gun season. H.

I attended the meeting last week at powder valley and asked questions and evaluated the information given. After thinking it over, I totally agree with dropping the firearm season down to 9 days again and doing away with urban zone. I understand the youth hunt and changes, I wish you could prevent the large amount of fraud that goes on during that season. Too many dads shooting big deer that a 6 year old tags? Changing antlerless portions are a real improvement if the herd is not healthy. Now for my disagreements. Please don't let crossbows be legal for anyone, there is already a lot of fraud in acquiring those doctor slips. If you don't want as many bucks killed by archers as your last proposal would have, then why would you add a slew of more "archers" by legalizing crossbows? I really don't want to drop the any deer amount for archery tag holders. We put in a lot more time in the woods to hunt and our opportunities are thin enough! Are you being pressured by crossbow manufacturers or is there that much sentiment to legalize them? It seems older hunters can obtain a crossbow permit if they truly can't shoot a traditional bow anymore. I just feel it is like a loaded cocked firearm and not right. Just so you know, I feel Missouri and this department have done a tremendous job in managing our wildlife for as long as I can remember. Thank you for all you do and in the end we will all adapt to whatever changes come down. I do feel that you are trying to do what is right and if needs to be adjusted down the road we will listen again. Thank You, M.P. P.S. about your next question, charge whatever amount our neighboring states charge us to hunt there!

I have sent my comments for years now. Really is frustrating the direction this state is heading. Few of my thoughts: The topic of moving gun season has been approached before so your solution is to shorten it 2 WHOLE days?! What a cop out! You may want people to believe, oh they are trying to do something, I call bull. I understand the conservation is hesitant towards a thanksgiving week deer season. Have it the first week of December or later, like many of our neighboring states. Give deer a chance to get the main rut over. Two days less does nothing it's a Monday and Tuesday that there are very very few hunters in the woods. As it stands now the guns hit the woods late October youth, archers get one weekend, then the guns start again, then another youth gun after thanksgiving. Why does Missouri keep penalizing archery hunters? With

the early gun seasons and now a proposed limit of bucks. I am sure if you look at the army of gun hunters and the number injured deer during these seasons and a guarantee the number of illegal poaching etc in gun seasons compared to archery it won't even be comparable. Crossbows should be limited to kids under 15-16, like youth season, and older age people and injured. Crossbow is not an archery means of killing deer. It has a stock and stays loaded. I hunt others states during the month of November deer season for these very reasons. I have not purchased a firearms tag in 3 years and will not until changes are made. I will continue to hunt states that protect deer during the rut and have late gun seasons and produce deer. Funny thing is Missouri is right in the middle of these states I hunt. But for some reason cannot follow their examples. Which brings me to another topic, nonresident tag prices. You guys are way too cheap. I have hunted Iowa , Kansas, Illinois and others. None of which are under 400\$. You want less deer killed and grow buck population make it tougher to get tags plus I would think higher tags would mean more revenue. I really would love to hunt my own state- but I have seen it get worse and worse. You suck.

(No crossbows) keep the current regulations, if you're looking for more funding, raise the non resident to \$500, like every state in the Midwest. Also increase the cost of resident tags to whatever helps keep crossbows away from Missouri without a special permit. You will hurt this state's population of deer and quality deer if you make these changes for crossbows. Do not reduce archery any deer tags, you need to have a four point restriction state wide. RAISE TAG COSTS for all Missouri hunters. Don't take my archery tags away. We know it's all about the \$, easy fix. We don't mind paying for what we love to do. EHD took a toll on the herd but Mo is bouncing back just fine. Move the firearms season to December 1 if you want quality bucks in Mo.! No crossbows!

Agree with firearm season changes except eliminate urban zone portion. We need to keep urban deer numbers down for safety. Agree to archery season changes. Agree with Conservation area regulations. Non resident deer permits is a bargain. They should be double to meet surrounding states permit cost.

I do not believe that crossbows should be allowed in bow season. I don't think that bow hunters are affecting the age structure of bucks and there is no need to limit bow hunters to 1 buck. I have bow hunted for 15 years and never killed more than one buck in a season with a bow. Most hunters I know lose interest after they kill 1 buck or up their standards to only shooting a trophy. Once again allowing cross bows will not help improve Missouri hunting or deer management.

The only 2 changes in the firearms season I am for is reducing the number of days in the antlerless portion and extending the youth to 3 days. I am very opposed to shorting the November portion to 9 days. I look forward to the last 2 days (Monday and Tuesday) of the November Firearms portion. Most hunters are out of the woods and gives people like me the opportunity to enjoy the woods virtually hunter free. Why change something that isn't a problem? About crossbows being used during archery season, well that is just a horrible idea. These cross bows can shoot up to 100 yards accurate. I know cause I have a friend that shoots his

at 100 yards. No skill needed. Why would I go buy a compound bow when I can just use a crossbow now? Many hunters won't step foot into the woods after the antlerless portion is over. I know many that do, however, if you limit archery hunters to 1 buck during archery season people I know, along with myself, won't have a reason to be in the woods with bows if we harvest a buck before the November portion. Having that buck tag late season keeps us in the woods for more days. While waiting for that late season buck we are able to harvest does. I haven't known many people that have even harvested 2 bucks during archery season.

As far as the firearms season change goes, many hunters who have full time jobs already lose 5 days of hunting and only can hunt on weekends. Reducing to 9 days would be a disappointment in my mind. As far as archery goes, pulling a trigger is not bow hunting.

I disagree with the changes to archery regulations. I don't think crossbows should be allowed for the duration of archery season. If this does happen I think they should have their own short season.

I think that most of the proposed changes are good. I am dubious about two of them. I don't understand the purpose of reducing the number of "any deer" tags that you can have with an archery permit. Taking bucks does not affect the number of deer in the herd. I think that it is nice to have two possible buck tags. On the topic of including cross bows for the general bowhunting season, this decision would infuriate me. Why can't we just have a "cross bow season" separate from the regular bow season? Crossbows are not at all the same as regular upright bows (compound or traditional) they are somewhere between a rifle and a compound. Cross bows do not belong in general archery seasons, they should have their own season and be legal during gun season. It is really not right.

The proposed changes sound good to me.

I like the changes.

I think you waited too long to make the changes! The regulation changes would help but I think less days of hunting would even be better. They need to reconsider this youth hunt thing! A lot of people don't like it.

I am in absolute favor of the use of crossbows for archery season. All the other proposed changes are ok with me to change or to leave alone, they to do not have much impact on me or the way I hunt.

What deer management? When I contacted MDC on the phone, a very nice lady informed me the best control for my area was to, "Get a group of friends or other people together and ask them to hunt on your property." I really don't think this works as the deer population will not know where my boundaries are! If only I lived in Town and Country where deer were sterilized (at no small cost). What is being done for control in my area? Permits should be free to the needy (for food) and/or be distributed by hunters for the same purpose. These deer are ruining my property values!

Deer numbers too high in south Boone County. Eliminate antler point restrictions. Make any deer season longer.

I really believe that the Conservation Department is wasting a lot of money and time having these public forums. The department is going to do what they want regardless what the public thinks. Thanks for letting me express my feelings.

Would support crossbows for 60 yrs and older, due to aging, otherwise I believe all else remain the same.

I am good with all of the changes except reducing the firearm season to 9 days. I can't see that a significant number of deer are harvested during the last two days. I hardly ever see any other hunters the last two days and I really enjoy being out then. I have never killed a buck on the last two days. I agree with the only one archery buck rule. A chance to harvest one buck with archery and one with a firearm should be plenty for most hunters. I think crossbows are fine. I personally think they are more traditional than a compound bow, especially one with recurve limbs. Thanks for doing such a great job.

I strongly agree with all the proposed changes. The use of crossbows for a legal method of archery hunting has always been at the top of my agenda! It would make for more lethal kills, give Mo hunters another option, and be a good way to introduce younger hunters too small to use a compound bow into archery hunting.

You are going to do whatever you want since it is a money issue not a conservation issue. I don't know why you are wasting a bunch of money and time getting public input. Some a-- that probably doesn't even hunt deer will make the decision.

I see a problem with the proposed change on the late youth season, like many residents and sportspeople in Missouri, I work in retail sales. Be aware, you are proposing the youth season start on Black Friday thru what is known as Black Friday weekend. Our employers consider working these days as mandatory. Plus, as an employee of Cabela's, I see the best bargains for sportspeople occurring during these days. Not to mention families use these days to travel and visit relatives.

Greetings! Please continue as planned with proposed changes to the deer regulations and seasons. While I was unable to attend a recent open-house on the proposed changes, I was disappointed to hear from those in attendance that many archers disagree with the proposed inclusion of crossbows. As hunters, we all too often find ways to divide ourselves. Doing so comes with a host of social, economic, and even conservation related consequences. In this case, I believe we have a silent majority of archers that are not opposed to crossbows being added. In fact, I believe many will explore hunting with a crossbow. I know I will! Please don't let the deafening voices of a few drown out the steady pace of sound conservation, wise resource decisions, and opportunities that await many by allowing crossbows. Other points to support this decision include time and ethics. In my opinion, crossbows allow archers with limited time the opportunity to stay on target. While hunting with any instrument requires practice, it appears to me the use of crossbows will allow hunters with limit time and/or opportunity a reliable way to hunt. By doing so, it also allows hunters to hunt more ethically. For instance, many archers are cross dominate and have issues with shooting a vertical bow. A cross bow can help eliminate those issues. I also like the fact that nearly anyone can hunt with one. Lots of good reasons to

include crossbows and in my opinion only selfish ones to keep them out. I also like potential boost to the economy, additional permit sales, and harvest efficiency we may enjoy by adding crossbows to the archery season. Thanks for your time and allowing Missouri citizens a place to share our thoughts on the subjects at hand. Sincerely, G.C.

First a huge thank you to the MDC for all they do. Including crossbows in archery season for everyone is questionable to me. If a person needs to use a crossbow to hunt due to medical reasons that is completely understandable. Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on proposed changes.

I do not see any need to cut back on the number of bucks an archery hunter can shoot, they do not impact the herd very much. I also do not think crossbows should be used in the regular archery season except by handicap hunters.

Do not allow crossbows for use during archery season, unless restricted to age and/or handicap. Crossbows are not considered archery.

Don't agree with allowing crossbows during archery season unless you are handicap. Don't agree with changing the number of antlered deer from 2 to 1.

If you are going to take away a buck tag, make the archery one an alternative method tag. I think the opportunity to use a muzzle loader late season would be a big plus if you still had a usable tag. I have several friends who would come back to Mo if they had another tag for muzzle loader season. Make them buy an alternative season tag and boom, another \$225. Crossbows yes, no reason not to, more opportunity for older hunters, kids etc, This is about management and the attraction of more people to the sport.

I don't think you should open crossbow permits unless applicant is disabled.

Crossbows should be allowed with no restrictions during archery season. Don't like the one buck rule for archery season. Season changes seem like a good idea

I don't like the proposed change of archery limit of one buck. I did not see a double in antlered deer taken with the change to 4 point rule. Before, all the 3 inch antler deer were legal. Yes, more deer with 4 points, but we been past spike and 3 or less point. I've seen more young bucks, less does. It's hard to find deer after gun season. With land owners owning 85% of land in Missouri, archery will not control the deer herd. You don't have stats and measures for crossbows but I'd like to be able to use one as I'm getting older.

I like most of the changes that have been proposed, but I do not necessarily agree with the shortening of seasons. Personally, I do not think that shortening the seasons would be a good change because people who are desperate may be more tempted to harvest illegally. Crossbows should be allowed during archery season I believe.

I think the Gun season should be moved out of the rut along with shortening. We need to get in line with Iowa and Illinois to improve the quality of bucks and thereby making Missouri a sought after state.

Please consider Habitat Corridors/Connections, Habitat Restorations, Habitat Biodiversity, and Preventing Road Kill (Habitat Crossings in vital area's) in your plan to improve deer health, prevent disease, and minimize road kill.

First off, I do not understand how shortening the antlerless season will help reduce the amount of deer harvested. With the permit change last year, I do not see how any further reduction is warranted. The other change that I do not agree with is allowing crossbows during the archery season. Even though a bow and a crossbow use a string to "throw" a projectile, they are vastly different. The fact that you can steady a crossbow against a tree or even use shooting sticks AND that you can put a magnifying scope on one clearly prove that they are nothing like a regular bow. If you want to reduce the amount of deer harvest, allowing crossbows during archery season would be one of the worst decisions you could make. Thank you for letting me express my opinions on these matters. I feel that the MDC is the best conservation agency in the nation, and I appreciate all of the work that you do.

While we are dealing with a significant reduction in our deer herd here in our county, it is doubtful that very many people will bother to travel fifty miles to the nearest meeting on the subject. Why is it not possible for our agent and every other agent to hold meetings within their respective counties to address our concerns, and report their findings back to MDC? It is the off-season anyway. I can tell you that the majority of the hunters here have no faith whatsoever that MDC really has a serious interest in our opinions, mainly due to the availability of a few scattered meetings throughout the state. If something isn't done here now, our deer herd will be at a crisis level in two more years. Please stop the doe slaughter.

1. Reduce days to 9, Yes, I agree. 2. Youth portion expansion, No, I do not agree. If we are rebuilding the herd, keep it the same. 3. Yes. 4. Yes, eliminate the urban zones. 5. No crossbows during archery season, gun season only. 6. Yes, 1 antlered deer during archery season. 7. huh? Don't understand.

Move deer gun season start back to weekend of Veteran's Day, November 11th so we can have a 3 day holiday hunt. Opening on the weekend following Veteran's Day limits travel and time in the woods for working hunters.

Should be regulated by county. Where I live the deer herd are fine. Why penalize us because other counties are down? There is also a large economic impact here on both ends. You keep taking away and people will quit buying permits. Taking away days impacts the revenue of businesses.

After some research I gather the reason for these suggested changes is age management of deer. If this is the case and less than 1% of archery hunters shoot two bucks per, then reducing the allowable number of bucks we can shoot is ridiculous and will have almost no effect on age management, so why make the change? The firearms portion has by far the largest effect on herd numbers with the majority of deer shot during the first weekend, thus, reducing it to nine days will also have little effect. The only thing that would really make a difference would be to move rifle season back by a week or two so it doesn't fall directly in the middle of the rut. To sum it up, if you're taking away from existing bow hunters by reducing the number of allowable bucks

AND allowing crossbows, then take away from rifle hunters by moving the season back which would have the greatest effect anyway.

Totally agree with proposed archery and firearms season changes. Have actively managed my Monroe County MO farm for deer and turkey. The changes in deer herd composition improved with antler restriction and believe these proposed changes will increase deer herd numbers that appear to be reduced based on personal observation.

I already commented but wanted to say one more thing. If I can only shoot one buck per archery season (I don't rifle hunt as I'm off the belief it is an unfair advantage) then that's it for me. I try to kill a doe every year for meat but it doesn't have near the same level of excitement. If I can only kill one buck, there isn't enough draw for me to return to the woods to shoot a doe after my buck is down unless there's an option to shoot a buck should the opportunity arise. In other words, don't reduce the number of antlered deer by archery. It's simply just a bad idea.

I'm for adding the crossbow. As an aging hunter I try do things I did 30 years ago but truth is my old body just doesn't work like it used to. All the other changes sound good too. I like the change for the youth season as well.

Archery Change 1: Archery season should be left as is. A crossbow is not a bow and arrow. Archery season has already been encroached with youth firearms season. Let the archers continue to have a dedicated true archery season. Crossbows can be used in other seasons as described in the code. What is the Department's concern on why they need to change Archery season regs? Hunters should be part of the solution if they really knew what the real issues really where? Is the Dept. wanting crossbows in archery season for more revenue? To decrease herd? Have they had a huge request of folks wanting to use crossbows. I'm a dedicated traditional bow hunter, I have practiced hard to become a skilled archer. I believe what you will achieve by allowing crossbows in archery season is another firearms season only with crossbows. I'm not in favor of this change. Change 2: First question is why the change? It is hard enough to take any deer with a bow, so I don't believe it this change is necessary. I'm not in favor of this change. Non-resident Deer Permits: The Dept has been lagging behind for years in this area. I guess the tag price was so low to entice folks to come to the state to hunt however; contiguous states do not extend this to Missouri hunters. \$225.00 is too low. This is way below the permit price average of other states with trophy deer. Just saying.

I like most of the proposed changes, however, I do not like someone else deciding what a trophy deer is for me. Sometimes a fork horn deer is what I am after; other times, only a more mature deer is what I am after. I miss the opportunity to decide. I would like to go back to the old rules about bucks. If it has one horn more than 3 inches it is a buck; and the hunter can decide to take that deer or another deer.

As a long time Mo. deer hunter I support all the proposed changes in this year's fall seasons. And I support the MDC in their fight to keep control of "Captured Deer" operations so they don't become classified as livestock and under the control of the Agriculture Department. We only won by one switched vote in the Mo. legislature the last time it was considered and the fight isn't over. Keep up the good work!

Agree with 9 day season. Agree with shorter doe season. Disagree with youth season moving up, there is enough youth opportunity early. I believe youth should start at 11 or 12. Kids younger than that are probably not shooting their own deer. Disagree with crossbow use. Have a separate season. Crossbows with scopes fire more like guns than bows. Non residents who own land in MO should have a lower non resident fee.

Other than the shortening of the season I also disagree with the 4-pt rule. I hunt for meat and since it took tens of years to get to the any deer tag it seems ridiculous to call it an any deer tag when you have to go back to counting horns. I would prefer to have trophy areas set up like trout and have people who want trophies pay for the privilege and not punish other hunters who do not share their desire for horns. You cannot eat horns.

All ok except crossbows during archery season limited to those over 65 years of age or physical impairment. I also like antler point restriction on bucks for all methods of hunting and seasons.

9 days for November portion I agree with, but also reduce the Alternative methods to 9 days. Eliminate the doe season until the doe population increases enough to support another firearms season, 18 days for firearms hunting is adequate time to harvest your deer. I agree with all of the other proposed changes.

First, I feel the current antlered limits for archery are fine. Though harvest numbers for archery have increased with increased archers, I don't think cutting out the second season buck for archers will effect overall harvest numbers that much. I have hunted archery deer in Mo since 1988 and hunt both gun a bow. I normally fill my first archery buck tag and the gun tag but have only filled my second archery buck tag once. I don't think the numbers of second bucks harvested by archers make up a significant portion of the total harvest. So eliminating the second buck tag may make a few pure gun hunters feel good it will have little impact on the herd. Though I have not seen actual numbers I would bet that most archery harvested bucks are in the first season. If numbers of deer is the question then manipulating the antlerless harvest is the best way to accomplish overall heard size. That can be done by changing the antlerless portion or to limit the number of does taken during the regular season. I have been deer hunting for 41 years and doe mgt equaled herd size magt. Do away with the any deer tag and issue doe tags based on what the population requires. Then mgt could be done by county. Doe tags should be issued based on herd size and they could be issued for the gun season or for a separate antlerless portion. Also, the antlerless portion could be an early season so the does harvested have not been bred. Currently we are harvesting does that have been bred in most cases so in effect when one doe is harvested we are really taking out two or more deer. Also, I don't see a problem with the current length of the gun season. Often the weather for opening weekend can be bad and with the longer season it allows hunters to still harvest the number of needed deer. The number of deer taken now during the last few days have little impact on the overall harvest numbers so reducing the season is more a feel good move and not one that effects the numbers. Why not leave those extra days to give those who can't get out or don't harvest early an additional chance. The numbers don't support this change. Again, if the size of the herd is the issue the new efforts

should be concentrated on doe management. Love the point restriction and I feel I have been seeing better bucks since you started it. Thanks

I do not believe a lot of these proposals are for the good of the real deer hunters in Missouri. I love to rifle hunt and do most of it on public state and federal land and want to continue with my kids to hunt this way as it a heritage I enjoy. I also do not believe the season should change to 9 days as most hunters are done after the first week and a lot of times later season is better with not as much pressure. I do not support changing the buck tag limit to one in archery season either. It allows me to have a chance at a late season buck after the rifle season and to take away a tag from archery hunters that are serious hunters to give it so someone who wants to crossbow hunt is not fair. In my opinion, crossbows should not be legalized as a normal method as it takes away from the bow hunting experience. Promoting youth hunters in any way is a great thing in any way, shape, or form. I do not believe in any way you should taking hunting days or methods away by "simplifying" regulations. Once something is gone it's very hard to get back. I love to deer hunt and do it a lot. I spend several hours and days each year I n the woods and spend a lot of money doing it because I love it and our state land is a great asset to my success. Any time the MDC takes any rights away or makes any state land away from being used by any public person for any leisurely activity just because someone else believes it should be taken is wrong. If the deer population is hurt it's one thing to change regulations temporarily to maintain an ideal population but to take people's rights is wrong in every way. It's our land any anyone should be able to spend their time exercising their rights. Thank you.

The proposed changes seem reasonable, however as a non-resident land owner (60 acres) I believe the non-resident deer and turkey permits are excessively high priced. There should be a "in-the-middle" price structure between resident and non-resident that applies to non-resident landowners. Thank you for your time.

Firearms Season Changes - Agree with all. Archery Season Changes - Please DO NOT ALLOW CROSSBOWS. This "instant and easy" bowhunter method will increase hunting pressure, especially on public land. If you do allow them, please exclude their use on public land, we already have enough deer hunting pressure there. Conservation Area Regulations - Unclear what this means. If it will reduce the number of antlerless deer harvested on public land then I support it. Thank you.

No to crossbow during archery season, crossbow is like a gun-bowhunting is a close sport crossbow can kill a deer at 100 yds or so plenty of time to hunt with crossbow during other season, please no crossbow during archery season.

Leave the gun season alone or lengthen it, everything is geared toward bowhunting now.

I think you had it right 4 yrs ago, APR what has it done, nothing in my area except 20 4 pointers. Crossbows would not bother me either way. Don't see how shortening the gun season will have any impact on numbers. Taking away a buck tag from bow hunters late season doesn't make any sense and last only allowing one antlerless tag to the gun hunters is wrong especially in my area and many farmers have use the nuisance tags wasted resource if you ask me. These proposals sound good if numbers are bad, however, numbers are not bad in eastern Cooper County. There

are probably too many if you talk to the farmers. Our area needs at least 6-8 doe killed to keep from a population explosion. This only 3 were harvested. Please don't take away or change the regs. What about tag fees if you take away a tag? Look at the money you lost this year in antlerless tags just sayin, Good Luck.

Agree with all of the proposed changes. As a landowner of over 150 acres, we try to harvest one deer per season, sometimes two deer. I have always felt the harvest limits have been too high. Mother Nature takes care of excesses on her own. I am also in favor of a muzzleloader season prior to regular firearms season, although I know this is not part of the changes for comment. One antlered buck per archery season is plenty. If it is not a big enough rack, don't shoot.

I agree with your proposed changes.

I have hunted in Missouri in the past and plan to in the future again. I enjoy the people and the quality of hunting. I would recommend leaving the archery antlered deer at 2. When we have hunted there in the past we made multiple trips a year due to having two buck tags. This bring economy to area we hunt and makes us want to come back. Archery only accounts for less than 18% of the harvest and has little to no bearing total deer taken.

I agree with shortening the firearms portion to 9 days. I would like to see it moved back a week. I also agree with shortening the antlerless portion and extending the youth portion for late season. I agree with going to a 2 buck limit and regulating the number of antler less permits. I do not have any objection to allowing crossbows during the archery portion. I also think our non resident deer permits should be more in line with what our bordering states are charging us to hunt their state. Thank you for considering my comments on the deer regulations in Missouri.

The archery antlerless should remain unlimited, the doe to buck ratio is at least 10 does to one buck. Rifle season should be the same and alternative season should start the day after rifle season and go to it originally ends and make cross bows legal. I know you don't give a d--n what we the people think, you put this out so you don't have to listen to us and ya'll suck with your land management. You need to put a bounty on coyotes and plant more for upland game and rabbit as well as deer.

I am not in favor of reducing the length of Firearms season, I would like to see it a week earlier. I am okay with lengthening the late youth season, but I don't care for it being Thanksgiving weekend. Reducing the length of antlerless season is okay with me. I have no opinion on the Urban season. I would like to see crossbows allowed in the archery season. I would like to see a one antlered buck limit for archery season. I have no opinion on regulations in Conservation Areas.

If you're going to reduce the length of antler less deer to three days, have those days be Friday, Saturday, and Sunday because if you start it on Monday most people won't be able to go because they have to work.

The only changes that I personally do not agree with would be the archery changes. I think the crossbow gives an unfair advantage, and if I understand correctly, if you are disabled you can apply for a crossbow permit already, which is good. There are plenty of compatible compounds

out there that fit people at a decent price in today's market. I suppose that in my mind, half or better of the challenge of bow hunting is the skill needed to take a game animal without just squeezing the trigger. I do not agree with the one antlered deer tag either. I have no other reasoning behind it except that I like the fact I have another opportunity at a buck, especially if you are trying to manage your area by taking a lesser buck when the opportunity presents itself.

Leave bow season the same as what it has been. Opening it up to crossbow use only hurts the dedicated bow hunters while putting more deer on the ground in archery season because of an easier method. Limit more on rifle season, shortening the season and using the current one bonus depending on the county and maybe a point restriction state would do a number for helping the population.

My husband, M.J. and I operate his family farm, over 300 acres in Powell, Missouri. He and his sister, who lives in Lee's Summit, are the 4th generation. His son, grandsons and cousin, who live in Missouri hunt at the farm as well. My husband and a good friend of ours, pay for a non-resident deer permit and turkey permit so they can hunt with all of them, because our primary resident is in Arkansas about 40 miles away. We have cattle and do lots of work with Missouri Conservation to improve the land for wildlife. We will be building food plots with guidance from Missouri Conservation this year. I have to first say, they all have been amazing to work with. We are in touch with them constantly on bear sightings, and about poaching, also turning in numbers of dead deer found during the illness that went around, you name it. Recently they identified and helped us make plans to build food plots. We are very excited. It is not our permanent home but we spend a great deal of time there. M. is a retired law enforcement officer and loves to spend time there. Many weeks I commute back and forth to Arkansas where I work for the City. We pay taxes, buy farm supplies, electric, propane and shop in Missouri for everyday items for the farm house. The \$225.00 does seem high to us, we completely understand the need for one, but for us who truly invest in Missouri and the wildlife it seems a bit extreme. I would ask you to reconsider the cost of the non-resident fee. Or consider bringing back the non-resident land owner deer and turkey permits. Thank you so much for your time and consideration. Sincerely, W.J.

Unfortunately I will not be able to attend any of the scheduled events around deer management in person. I wanted to voice my opinion on the proposed changes. I am against the use of crossbows during archery season and feel this rule should remain that they can be used if there is a medical need. I would like to see the late you portion expanded. I feel the current firearms season length and timing is appropriate. I feel the urban zones should remain. If removed only vehicles will control the population. I agree with simplifying the conservation area rules. I feel if the point restriction for archery remains there is no need to limit to one antlered deer. I would like to see the ability for youth under 16 to be exempt from the antler restriction for archery. Feel free to contact me if you require any clarification on my comments. I appreciate the opportunity for my voice to be heard.

I don't understand why you would be limiting the number of bucks to be harvested and also allowing crossbows it archery season. Seems to be contradictory. I also would not agree with

allowing crossbows statewide during archery season. It appears MDC is looking to increase the number of bucks and also the size, if that is true why hasn't MDC implemented the antler restriction statewide? PLEASE no crossbows for all of archery season. If you must let them be used after firearms season is over.

I agree with the proposed changes for the 2016-17 deer season. I think that they should have been introduced for the 2015-16 deer hunting season.

I feel there is no reason to allow crossbows during the archery season other than more money for the Conservation Dept.! You have already turned the black powder season in to an alternative season were the crossbows can be used and you allow them during rifle season that should be plenty of time for someone to go and have a chance to harvest a deer with a crossbow. With the technology of compounds now they are smoother drawing with 80# of let off. My wife has harvested every deer she has shot with her 43# bow but she uses fixed blades and she shoot all year long. The folks that want to allow crossbows are the lazy folks that don't want to take the time to learn how to shoot a bow or they are the ones that shoot a week before the season and miss or put bad hits on the deer they shoot. THIS IS JUST ABOUT \$\$\$\$. Now let's talk about the rifle season. I feel you should move it to the end of November or early December, this will cut down on your buck harvests. Kansas and Iowa do this now and look how there buck to doe ratio is. In reality I would love be more like Iowa and Illinois and go to SLUG Guns only but that would be a perfect world and we all know that won't happen. I feel we should got to a draw for out of state folks, but then again that would be in a perfect world. Lol I really hope the changes you all decide on will be truly for our deer management and not for MONEY. Even though that is what it sound like. Either way thanks for given me the opportunity to voice my opinion I was really wanting to make the Burr Oak meeting but wasn't able to do to work. Thanks again and God Bless/

I would strongly like to see use of crossbow during archery season the rest of proposed changes need to be made also. The last 2 deer seasons in north Mo. have been bad due to disease etc?

I agree with all changes in firearm season. I really agree with shorting the doe season. For archery I agree with both changes. I'm a crossbow hunter because of a shoulder and bicep injury, would I rather hunt with a vertical bow YES but I can't. I think you are right on your reasoning for allowing crossbows. I would like to compliment Missouri's MDC on the cost of non-resident youth deer permits I have out of state grandkids that now get to hunt with me.

The most effective way to manage Missouri's deer herd is to regulate the firearms portion of deer season. Firearm hunters have the greatest impact on the deer herd. This season should be moved to December out of the rut. Crossbows should have their own season and not be allowed during the regular archery season. Crossbows are not considered archery. Your proposed regulations will do nothing but ruin archery hunting in Missouri.

I don't mind shortening the firearm season or expanding the youth season. I also don't mind if the antlerless season is reduced or the urban zones eliminated. But I hate to see crossbows allowed during archery season, I feel that would hurt our deer population even more, plus I feel

crossbows are cheating, call me a traditionalist. I also don't mind if they take the archer limit to 1 I would hate to see cross bows be allowed during the archery season,

The proposed regulations for the firearms portion of the Missouri deer season I support. Anything that helps Missouri move towards a trophy management philosophy I am on board with. I would get rid of the antlerless season all together. If they did a study I would bet that the use of buck bow tags used during antlerless rifle season is drastically increased. 150 inch deer walks in front of one of these hunters during antlerless rifle season, BOOM! Bow tag slapped on it and they're all good. Then good guys (rule respecting hunter) lose an opportunity to harvest this quality deer. The new proposed archery rules I'm 50-50 on. The new crossbows out there are short range rifles. The appeal to bow hunting to me is the challenge of getting a deer close enough, draw back without spooking and making a quality shot on an animal. You legalize crossbows you take this away. So no on the crossbows. The one buck tag per bow season I've been a supporter of for a long time. Guys are not afraid of killing a small eight point buck just because they have a backup tag so they can harvest this animal can keep hunting. You go to one tag that small eight gets passed up on and survives to potentially turn into a quality animal. I've hunted and fished in several states for various types of fish and game, so let me say this "There is no place like home". Keep up the good work MDC and thank you for the quality opportunities you provide.

I think you need to leave the deer limits alone in the bow season. I think it would be okay to allow crossbows into the bow season.

First and foremost as an archery hunter, I disagree highly with opening up archery season to include crossbow for any hunter. I think this is an insult to any "true" archery hunter who takes the time to prepare, scout, play the elements and utilizes patience as well as a selection process to take the best deer possible. Taking game by archery methods including long bow, recurve or compound bow is a true accomplishment and opening this season up to crossbow hunters would be a disservice. With modern crossbows easily allowing hunters of any skill level to take game out to 80-100 yards basically would make this essentially a prolonged rifle season. The alternative methods portion is plenty of opportunity for crossbow hunters to fill tags. Changing tag limits I agree with if numbers truly warrant this for the betterment of the herd. Before I would change archery tag limits I would recommend instituting a more widespread antler restriction for bucks during rifle season. I don't disagree with shortening the rifle season temporarily if numbers warrant this or eliminating the urban portions if needed.

Everything looks to be going in right direction to get deer numbers back to where they were before ehd hit. Cross bows being allowed is a great idea.

As an archery deer hunter I say no to crossbows during archery season. If changed, any gun hunter can get a crossbow and hunt archery season. Archery is a challenge and takes more skill to make the shot, the crossbow takes less movement and carries a longer shot range with the scope making it easier for anyone who can point it to take a deer. I have a crossbow and it was very easy to take a deer this year. It will put many more hunters in the woods I am sure, which means more tags sold. Gun hunters already have a good enough advantage with the ability to

make shots from a couple hundred yards away, please do not let them infringe on the bowhunters. These are two different breeds of hunters as you well know. All others seem reasonable if needed to help the deer population. Thank You, M.

I think the idea to allow crossbows during bow season is absurd. That's too easy and more and more poachers will pop up seeing how many can be fired through a window. Granted, poaching is already a serious issue but with more people buying crossbows because they're allowed I can see an increase. I'm sure many other true bow hunters who hunt 30+ days a year like myself would agree that a crossbow seems degrading to the art of bow hunting. As for the one buck during bow season, I think that's a decent idea. As I only hunt for horns when shooting a buck it's hard enough to kill one let alone two so it doesn't directly affect me. However, I have an idea that could benefit everyone. What about making an antler restriction for two bucks or an antler restriction for only the second buck? There are big deer in southwest Missouri and its proven on the 800 acres I hunt. If sw Missouri and other counties can get an antler restriction like the northern counties it would be extremely beneficial. Rifle season always seems to be too late in my area. Usually the rut in my area come around the end of October, and by the time rifle season begins there isn't much running. I'm not much of a rifle hunter and only go out two maybe three times with a gun but that's my opinion. I would like to see it a little earlier.

Your survey of hunters of course resulted in lowering expected deer harvest numbers. You should have surveyed those of us who feed all those deer. There are far too many deer. When we plant a field of soybeans we have simply moved our savings account from the bank to the field. It is agonizing to watch your deer raid our account knowing there is nothing we can do about it. I wonder if you would give any person unlimited access to your bank account? We have, in the past, been given permission to kill deer in the fields but others soon move in to fill the void. I repeat, there are way too many deer and the seasons and limits all need to be increased and lengthened. Thank you. Stay safe out there on the highway. Watch for all those deer!

Why is it that a person can own property in MO, pay the property taxes each year and still have to pay such a high non-resident deer permit fee? \$225.00 in my opinion is there to produce currency in the states funding. Landowners and hunters that own property in MO not only pay the tag fee, taxes on their land but also spend a large amount of money, most likely more than residents, when they are in stated. I do believe the non-resident permit fee should be reduced if a land owner can prove they pay taxes and are improving wildlife habitat on their land as well as allowing not only deer hunting opportunities but also hunting for other game and other outdoor activities. A proposal of reducing the non-resident fee to a more affordable price of around \$130 to \$150 would be more acceptable and affordable to non-resident landowners that spend the extra money when in state. Turkey conservation and the cost of a non-resident landowner permit is a different subject and should be considered as well as the deer permits. Again, \$196 for the same landowner to pay should be considered in being reduced as well. Thank you for your time in this comment and for all the hard work the MDC does in the conservation efforts you all provide.

I believe that there could be a compromise of 2 bucks any method with max of 1 with a firearm. I am able to hunt more and prefer to bow hunt and chose not to shoot young deer. I am not in favor of crossbows with the exception of youth and disabled exempt hunters.

Leave firearms season where it is and reduce to 9 days. As long as it starts on Saturday and ends on Sunday. Allow crossbows, this should have been done long ago. I don't think the change in the number of antlered deer in archery season will make any difference so I have no opinion. Reduce the number of antlerless days. The regulations for conservation areas should not be changed if they reduce opportunities. Remember they are the only place most people have to go hunting. The number one thing is DO NOT change youth season by moving it later in the year. Increasing the number of days is great, but you can't move it later in the year when the weather will be colder and the deer have been thinned out by adults and the rut is complete. It should always be held before the regular firearms season and during the rut. Don't let a few elitist bowhunters selfishly talk you into change the regulations just for them. Thanks for the opportunity to share my thoughts.

It is wonderful to see your proposal to include crossbows in regular archery season. I have always hated being labeled a "cripple". Us baby-boomers aren't cripples. We have just worn out our body parts. My shoulders can no longer stand the repetitive drawing of a regular bow. Looking forward to this proposal being part of your deer management system.

I am ok with reducing firearms season and leaving the date. Leave early youth season as is but expanding the late youth and making it earlier would be great. Allow crossbows. All other items I have no real opinion on.

I believe that lowering to a one legal buck during bow season is a good idea. I also believe that allowing crossbows to be used during bow season will not only bring Missouri in line with many surrounding states but will cut down on wounded lost deer.

It's hard enough working hunting in around work, church, family, etc, shortening the season will only eliminate the option for many hunters to get out and hunt. Why reduce the time? Why not reduce the number of deer per hunter instead and extend the seasons?

I would be good with most of the changes being proposed. The one proposal I would not like to see approved would be the limit of 1 archery buck tag. I have been lucky enough to take a buck in the past in early Oct. I looked forward to the opportunity to have another chance in the late archery season. Without the possibility of being able to take another buck, it would be much harder to stay motivated to be out there in the cold late season. I understand we can still take a doe, and I would ok with that. But it would be harder to stick with it knowing you have no opportunity to take a buck. I don't think the second archery buck tag has a significant impact on the herd. If crossbows are approved for archery season, I could see reducing the limit of archery bucks to 1. While I don't think the use of crossbows will be a drastic advantage. I do think we will see more bucks killed during archery season with their use. To me these 2 proposals should be based on each other. Another proposal I would for that is not on the list, would be to move the rifle season out of the heart of the rut.

I don't think you have disseminated enough information indicating what is "broke" with the present regulations for me to offer an educated opinion.

The only proposed change that I have a concern about is the date of the youth portion to begin the weekend after Thanksgiving. I understand it could encourage youth participation; however, as a lifelong Missouri resident and outdoorswoman the weekend after Thanksgiving is traditionally a time our family gets outside to enjoy hiking and exploring before the long winter months. This typically includes visiting conservation areas nearby. If this weekend becomes the youth hunting weekend it would affect the ability of others to safely enjoy the outdoors during the holiday. We often have family from out of state and this is a prime time to show off Missouri's natural wonders to them. Please consider the safety and concerns of all nature lovers before approving the proposed regulations.

I am opposed to allowing crossbows into archery season. Bowhunting permits and rates of harvest are rising already. We have yet to see what the NASP program will yield as far as bowhunters in the future? Data from other States that have started allowing crossbows have shown a decline in permit sales after the "fad" has worn off. Also, cutting back to only 1 buck does not impact many bowhunters but why not just cut it to only 1 buck any method? Cutting 2 days off gun season and then allow crossbows into archery season to increase harvest numbers?

A friend of mine said that he heard that MDC was considering limiting hunters to 1 buck deer per season, total, by all methods. If that comes to fruition, I feel that this would have a very big impact on the interest of hunters in hunting deer, as well as effecting the revenue that deer hunting produces for MDC and small businesses throughout Missouri. Also, I support changing the second youth season from January to a much earlier date in December. It has been my experience that some bucks lose their horns by the early January date, consequently, being shot by hunters that mistake them for does. Besides, it is normally too cold that time of year for young hunters to brave the cold weather. Thanks for giving me the opportunity to express my views.

I am a bowhunter and I do not think crossbows are a good idea, except for medical exemptions.

Agree with all proposed changes but Antlerless season. I believe that it should be reduced to 2 different Friday through Sunday hunts with one being for pistols, black powder and other non-rifle means and the other for all of the above and rifles. Also, keep a specific black powder and pistol season for 3-7 days. I especially like the crossbow for all change since I am reaching an age where being able to draw a bow is becoming increasingly difficult to the point where I am considering stopping bow hunting if I cannot qualify for a crossbow exemption.

I have seven kids, most hunt, but why move youth firearms season to Friday after Thanksgiving when that is the traditional real beginning of quail season? It is too dangerous to hunt quail when kids are hunting with rifles. As a quail hunter I have very few windows the past few years to hunt quail without some deer rifle season in session. I do not mind bow hunters who see you, but rifle and black powder is killing bird season, as I do not want to be shot. Thanks, G.G. Jr.

I don't like the consideration to limit the antlerless portion to three days. Working people might not get a chance to hunt those three short days. Additionally, a lot of folks don't even care about

shooting a big buck. You would simply be taking away from some to give something else to another type of hunter to manage the deer herd. I usually fill my tags the first week, but when I don't, that late season is a blessing. I like the idea of limiting 1 buck during archery season. The crossbow idea for archery season is a fine idea as well!

I hate to see the season go back to 9 days because some hunters have limited time to hunt and you never know how the weather will be. I hate to see archery being limited to 1 buck. I wonder how badly the herd is effected by a hunter who gets his 2nd buck? I don't think we would gain much there. My biggest beef is on the crossbow regulation change. If we are trying to improve herd numbers I don't see this helping. I WOULD support the idea of after a certain age you could automatically get that privilege or if a person has a drs. excuse [which is already in place]. I'm 65 years old and bow hunt every chance I get and the day may come where I'll have to go to a crossbow so I think it should be available at a certain age. One last thing, I hunt frequently with friends who come down from Iowa, including a deer camp, each year that we have enjoyed for 30 years. I heard there is talk about raising out of state tag fees and I am DEFINATELY against that, mainly because my friends from up north spend A LOT already and they also spend A LOT in our community. This is multiplied many times over in November and since I'm in local politics I don't want anything to interfere and put in jeopardy this revenue stream for our community. I used to hunt up in Iowa but their tags got ridiculous so I don't hunt deer, turkey, pheasants or ANYTHING in Iowa, and haven't for 6 years now, and it's not only the Iowa Conservation dept but it's the motel owners, restaurant owners and bar owners, gas stations, etc that pay the price. I believe in developing a positive pull factor for communities so I think LOWERING Mo tags would be a better move. Raising prices isn't the answer because people WILL find other things to do, there's lots of other options! Anyway, I apologize for getting so windy but you did ask for comments! :) T.R.

If you allow the XBow hunters an opportunity, the number of bow hunters will dwindle after a few years beyond your imagination. To allow this would be the biggest sell-out ever made by the State of Missouri. I believe there will be more wounded game because of shots that should have never been taken. Pioneers of the sport of Archery like Aldo Leopold, Saxon Pope, Art Young & Fred Bear would be saddened. I'm 75 years old and still love the challenge. What is happening with sportsman that want a challenge. Please don't insult my intelligence by calling them a crossbow! They are nothing more than a crossgun!

I am not in favor of allowing crossbows during the archery season. Those who have a medical reason for using a crossbow already can do so. I am not in favor of reducing the archery buck limit to one. I can't see how the two buck limit has any sort of meaningful statistical impact on the deer herd. I am in favor of having the late youth hunt after thanksgiving instead of later when some bucks have shed their antlers. I am in favor of a shorter antlerless firearms season.

It is crazy that you are considering ruining the most beautiful conservation pursuit, i.e. allowing crossbows in the regular Archery season. Why would you consider such a monumental change in a bow season that is working very well? You will be amazed at what will happen to the many thousands of bowhunters in Missouri. In the end, you are changing a conservation system that is

working very well. If you bring crossbows into the regular season, you will find the change will haunt you in future years.

Your season on the firearms shortening is fine because gun season in Ray County is nothing but a fence line hunting kill everything that walks anyway so whatever. Good move on finally doing something to put a limit on doe tags after our deer population was decimated from the 2012 drought. I am curious how it took 2 years to figure that out. Now you are wanting to destroy the archery season with letting people use crossbows to bow hunt. This conservation department is a joke, all you care about is revenue not the conservation. This letter speaks for about 10 guys in Ray county and we look forward to attending your meeting in St. Joe on March 31st.

I agree with and support the changes that you have proposed. I especially agree with allowing crossbows for archery season and with shortening the firearms season to 9 days. I wish we could go back to having to check your deer and turkey at check stations. I feel too many people are not being truthful since telecheck has been instituted.

I do not agree with either proposed archery regulations.

Shorten firearms season. Enforce antler restrictions. Limit the number of annual buck tags to 1. Make Missouri a 1 buck state. Extend youth season. No crossbows during bow season (it takes the sport out of archery) only 1 buck in archery. Do away with alternative methods season. Thanks.

I would agree with the proposed changes especially about allowing crossbow usage.

I would like to see MDC allow crossbow hunting for the fall turkey and archery, I think it would provide a good opportunity to get more youth hunters involved in hunting. We have an 8 year old daughter that was able to take her first deer during the alternative season this year with a crossbow. Thank you, The D. Family

I think that changing the late youth season to the proposed weekend is a bad idea. The weekend after Thanksgiving is a weekend that families and kids travel a lot to visit relatives. This would be very disruptive so close to the holiday. I have taken my kids on the late hunt after New Years and I think the timing is fine.

I am not in agreement with crossbows during regular archery season. If they are to be allowed only by hunters with disabilities or hunters 55 or older. I am not seeing the reasoning for limiting archery permits to 1 buck a year, given such a small percentage of hunters actually fill both. It makes more sense to alleviate the firearms pressure during the peak rut by moving it to early December.

My family has owned the same land since 1839 in Daviess county Missouri. I grew up on this family farm which is about 1,000 acres. 440 of those acres are part of the original land that was homesteaded in 1839. Because I grew up on this farm, I have solid association with the land and want to preserve it. Due to going to college and getting a job in the Kansas City area, both my sister and I began families away from our farm but we want to keep this land in our family. If we don't create ties and emotional bonds to this land, it will be nothing more than an asset to our children. One tremendous way to create this bond is through hunting. While our sons are

growing up we can take them hunting and it not be too costly for their licenses while they are young but I have to buy a non-resident license just to take them out. When our children get older, it will be so costly to pay non-resident rates for four boys. Another issue is when we have so little time to hunt, and then to pay such a high cost for a license it makes the whole experience so different. I have a demanding job, so I get two or three days a season to hunt. I feel pressure to then get “something/anything” for my money and can’t pass on many shots trying to see if I can harvest a true trophy or better animal. I love to hunt and hunting is a critical reason I have kept this land. I want to pass this on to my son and nephews. Does it seem appropriate to you that I should pay nonresident rates to hunt land that has never been owned by anyone but my family and we have paid taxes to the State of Missouri all these many, many years? I believe this is a very fair question to ask. I will be contacting Senator Brian Munzlinger and offering my support for his revised proposal to Senate Bill 56. I hope you understand the noble reason I wish to use hunting as a means to pass on our land and that it would not be that big of an impact to your income stream. Sincerely, E.W.F., II

I say no crossbows! Compound bows make it easy enough. I'm a traditional archer. I think there are enough people with fake injuries hunting with crossbows in archery season already. I'm all for shorting antlerless season deer numbers have been down in my area.

My thinking is that crossbows should have the physical exemption and an age, say 60 or 65 and above. I say that because I watched my father-in-law give up bow hunting because it became too difficult for him. Since bow hunting is a more solo way of hunting, I believe the youth should start with a bow, and cut their teeth on gun hunting.

No crossbow. Definitely with new technology it's like using the gun. 100 yard shots. Wow good job on deer management. Reducing to one antler deer, yes.

I would like to be able use my Firearms Antlered Tag in Archery season if I don't use it during the 1st Firearms 9 day season as well as in the traditional methods season.

I really think your deer season dates are hurting the big buck population. Hunting deer during the rut with a gun is just plain insane. We could have big bucks in this state if we are not shooting them with a GUN when they are most vulnerable. What's wrong with hunting them in early December and alternative methods in late December early January? I mean, look at Iowa, it is clearly right in front of your eyes on what works to manage big bucks. As for your alternative season, you never stop the antlerless gun season so the deer can settle down and being a hunter and not just a SHOOTER makes it very tough to shoot big bucks. Your seasons dates are just plain wrong. Southern Iowa is known for big bucks. Is Missouri's land so different from Iowa that it won't grow big bucks? No, it's the management. Change the start dates and some shooters might cry for a year or two but the overall result will be more big bucks for everyone, hunters and shooters. I like to hunt big deer, not 2 year olds, and it seems there isn't very many around here that make it to maturity, I wonder why. Thanks for reading my thoughts.

I am a Missouri native but my job forced my move to Iowa 20 years ago. I have come back to Missouri almost every year to hunt deer and turkey with family and friends. My son and son-in-law (both Missouri natives) started coming back with me to hunt. If I didn't purchase their tags,

they couldn't afford to come back. I have leased land for several years and contribute to the local economy when I return to hunt. What Missouri will lose is not only the revenue from my tags, but local economic dollars I bring if the out of state tag price goes up. I realize what Iowa charges out of state hunters and I think that is obscene also. My best friend in Missouri used to come to Iowa and hunt with me but we have priced ourselves out of the average man being able to afford out of state hunting. As a bow hunter, the proposed changes allowing crossbows I would oppose unless truly a medical issue is apparent, not doctor says I can't bs. All other proposed changes I have no issues with. Thank you for allowing my input.

I think the start of the firearm season should be pushed back a few days instead of shorting the season on the end. The start of deer season and fur bearer season should not open on the same days, there is always conflicts with this. The other 2 points on firearm season seems fine to me. On bow season, I think cross bows rules should stay the same as they are now. I also think 2 antlered deer should still be allowed in bow season.

Please don't allow crossbows to hunt during all of archery season. I think they should have their 27 day season after all firearms are done. Look at the deer population reduction that happened in other states which allowed all-archery season. Please keep archery season for archers, not other weapons! As a female, I'm even more concerned! I am out in the woods by myself in the dark. I don't hunt during most of gun season just because there's too many unexperienced males out in the woods who think that drinking and firearms mix. The concept of having even more males in the woods with crossbows makes it where I become fearful of who I will meet. Anybody can pick up a crossbow and use it relatively accurately and fairly quickly. That's not the case with a bow. If somebody's a bow hunter they are really out there to hunt and you can't be drunk and try to bow hunt effectively. You want women hunters? Keep the crossbow limited to 27 days and after all firearms seasons.

As a member of the south county archers, I am appalled at the proposal to increase the crossbow season to all of archery season. Please don't allow crossbows to hunt during all of archery. My suggestion would be to move the 27 day existing crossbow season to the end of firearms. As a female, I can tell you this is frightening. It's bad enough that during firearm season, the woods are crawling with drunk males with guns, but to have that same type of careless attitude with crossbows during all of archery, gives no opportunity for females and kids to hunt. The conservation Department has made efforts in the past to try to include kids and females, in this proposed ruling flies directly in the face of that! My vote is an emphatic "NO". Thanks for allowing comments!

Eliminate doe season until herd recovers. 1 buck bow- 1 buck rifle. Don't move rifle season. Move muzzleloader season off of the Christmas time. Keep crossbow restriction to disabled people.

I think in the youth hunts the deer should be checked in by an agent or a person authorized to do so there are a lot of big bucks being shot by kids that can't hardly hold a gun up much less shoot it. It might keep dad honest.

I do not like the fact of crossbows being used during the normal archery season. I think it will be a big problem with overcrowding on public property, more poaching and less deer. The handicap should be the only ones with crossbows. Hunters from out of state will take advantage of it and I know it will hurt our deer population! No to crossbows! Bad idea, should have never brought this up! Don't make it harder on the true archers! Thanks!

I strongly support all the proposed changes. Habitat changes, over-harvest of does and disease have significantly reduced the deer herd. Steps must be taken to allow the herd to recover to some extent. The Cole County urban season has been a source of frustration for years. Pressuring the deer outside Jefferson City city limits serves only to push more deer into the safe haven of the city.

I approved of the antler restriction for game quality, I do consider myself as a wildlife mgr by passing and selecting to harvest certain deer & turkey, however I am not a firearm hunter of big game and do not like the reduction of antlered deer or crossbow in the regular archery season. Very few archery tags check in 2 bucks a season. Regulation of herd and quality should be done with firearms (where majority of animals are harvested). Too many firearm hunters (rifle) have the "if brown, it's down" thought process and don't manage but will be the first to complain about not having quality deer. Drop the length of season for them back to where it used to be and that will help drop the number of harvest. Suggest going to earn a buck tag where they must successfully harvest a doe before being able to obtain a buck permit. Shorten archery season back to the 1st of October as it used to be, but stop treating bow hunters the same as firearm hunters. Our success rate is nowhere near the same. We can't successfully eliminate "management deer" because of antler restrictions. I have a monster 6 pointer that I'd be proud to hang on the wall but can't, not to mention stoppage of bad genetics from him. So please stop suggesting regulation changes that effect bow hunters when it's the gun hunters doing all the crybabying. I'm not happy with this at all. I have never once taken 2 bucks in a season. Even when I used to gun hunt. I guess I am one of the few that cares deeply about growing big deer but yet selective enough to only take what is needed at the same time being "wall quality". I love the outdoors, I love my privileges of hunting, I have & will always follow the rules, I take this pretty personally, for as a bow hunter, I feel under attack. We know what we shoot at with our yardage limitations. You know dang good and well gun hunters are trying that unethical 200+ yrd shot just to see if they can, not taking into consideration the pain or suffering of the game. Suggestion, go to shot gun only. Drop the unethical shot opportunity and raise the safety of others and homes at the same time as well as dropping the harvest rate to promote healthy herds and quality deer. Suggestion, shorten the season length on both so gun hunters don't feel left out. Suggestion, keep crossbows in firearm season because they are fire the same as a rifle. Suggestion, make NON RESIDENT TAGS THE SAME PRICE IT WOULD COST A MO RESIDENT TO HUNT THEIR STATE (specifically targeting IL). STOP messing with bow hunters, our success rates aren't high enough to justify your quality and herd control suggestions other than to make firearm hunters happy. They are the hunters that control all that. Of course, in this rant it is all just my opinion but the more I think about it the more irritated I get. Rounding

the figures there were roughly 200 thousand deer taken with a firearm and 52 thousand with archery in 2014. I think the proof is in the numbers that all your antlered deer issues lay within firearm portions.

I think it would be wrong to allow crossbows as a legal method during the archery portion of deer and turkey season. The increased accuracy and shooting distance of a crossbow very well may entice many more people to hunt deer and turkey during the archery portion, and in turn could be very detrimental to the deer and turkey populations. With the rising cost of beef we are all faced with today, it would seem only natural for the people of Missouri, and surrounding states, to rely more heavily on deer, turkey, and other wild game to put meat on the table. From my perspective, we are already starting to see the effects of this very thing in Northern Barry county. Deer sightings in and out of season have been substantially diminished over the last few years. I honestly feel this would not be the appropriate time to allow Missourians a "easier" method to harvest game during the archery portion of deer and turkey season, if we are to maintain a healthy deer and turkey population for future generations of Missourians to enjoy. Please reconsider this purposed change to the regulations.

I considered myself a true conservationist. My real passion is bow hunting. The proposed regulation change was obviously not from a bow hunter! All this will do is promote breaking the rules by people who feed their families from deer meat or the one who feed their families from the revenue you will be taking away. Not to mention those who just love to be in a tree stand somewhere for the last two months of the year. I would like to know how many bucks we are talking about being harvested by doing away with the second buck rule. I had no idea there was such a need to reduces the number of bucks harvested. After one year of great deer hunting (after 3 of either bad weather or disease from over population) someone feels we need to lower the harvest numbers. Second, the idea of a crossbow hunting to be treated like a bow hunting? If it looks like a gun, has a stock like a gun, feels like a gun, has a scope like a gun, has a trigger like a gun, but shoots an arrow so let's say it's archery? Kinda like playing football with a bat. Why not allow air rifles they are silent and resemble a crossbow. They don't have gun powder let's call it archery. Third, shorting the hunt. Most Americans work! Most hunter try to get days off work to hunt, cutting a day will cost many hunters the chance to hunt. Again, this sounds like someone who doesn't work and doesn't hunt. I do feel if we need to lower the harvest count make the non-resident deer permit 450 to 500\$ lowering the number of hunters coming to Missouri. Let people from our state hunt more deer! We don't need all that tourist income hunters pay to landowner and hotel, restaurants, hunting outfitters, even Walmart would not mind the loss in income. We're going to lose plenty with Missourians not spending their money. Take away 1/10 of the hunting means takings away 1/10 the revenue. Great idea. Way to boost the economy!

Limit the number of crossbow hunting days to 38 in the normal deer hunting areas. Limit the number of crossbow hunting days to 50 in Urban areas where there are too many deer and there needs to be a quick decrease in numbers.

I do not feel allowing crossbows would be beneficial. People want to use crossbows because it takes less practice to use the weapon. Lazy. No movement needed to draw and fire the bow. Less

challenge. Archery manufactures want their foot in the door to sell crossbows. Archery season should remain for the dedicated that put in the time and patience not the one who just grabs his arrow shooting rifle and heads for the woods.

Not in agreement with allowing crossbows for everyone during archery season. Bound to increase harvest numbers and hunters as well as disturbing the peace and serenity of a true bow hunt!

Crossbows during archery season? Why? A crossbow is a gun that shoots arrows. Period. I could see the change if our deer numbers are getting too high, but if that is the case then why are you making it where we only get 1 buck tag? If you are disabled, fine, but why would we let a "hunter" shoot a crossbow and get the range of 100+ yards from September to January? It's ridiculous. Archery hunting is meant to be a traditional style hunt, and "traditional" doesn't mean a scoped crossbow that has the range of a gun. It's about getting personal with the deer and outsmarting them, not only getting within 40-50 yards but being able to draw and pull off the perfect execution is what archery season is all about, not just being in the proximity of the deer but being within steps. Crossbows should stay in the alternative methods season where they belong, and not intrude on the bow hunting rut.

I think all the proposed changes are good for the future of Mo deer numbers. I would also like to see the point restriction for bucks implemented state wide.

I like bow hunting and I like bow hunting as much as possible, but if I am only allowed 1 buck tag then my season will be over as soon as firearm season ends, right when mine is usually just beginning on my second buck tag. I like harvesting old mature deer to preserve the health of the herd and by limiting me to 1 buck with a bow it will limit me to only 2 mature bucks a year, letting the old bucks past their prime to keep worn out genetics in my herd and stealing does from the younger deer that are in their prime and are passing on good genetics. By continuing to allow hunters to harvest 2 bucks you are allowing them to let their herd flourish growing bigger, healthier deer while putting more meat on the table for their families.

I feel like crossbows should be legal during archery season.

As a Missouri resident and longtime bowhunter I am absolutely opposed to allowing crossbows in the ARCHERY season! I also am completely opposed to reducing the ARCHER'S buck tag to one buck! I am ABSOLUTELY OPPOSED AND INFURIATED BY THESE PROPOSED CHANGES to the Missouri "ARCHERY" regulations. I will, as a matter of FACT, move from this state to another if these ridiculous changes actually become law.

Do not allow crossbows during the general archery season.

Do NOT allow crossbows during archery season! Do NOT limit the buck harvest to 1! Thank you.

I do not like the antlerless being shortened to 3 days. This is a very small window and can be effected by weather, work, etc. In today's world, very few people are off on weekends anymore. Why not leave it the longer length, just limit the number of does allowed. I do agree adding crossbows for archery season is a good idea. Eliminating urban season could lead to over -

population in those areas. Maybe replace with special/managed hunts for those areas? I think the change to the youth season would be good. Thank you.

Crossbows should not be allowed during archery season except for the medical exemptions. I have only harvested one doe in the last four years because the population in our area has declined significantly. The higher success rate of crossbows won't help the population rebuild itself. Crossbow hunters have ample opportunity during all the firearms seasons to be successful.

DO NOT extend the cross-bow time during archery season. This weapon is a rifle not a true bow/archery.

I fully support most of the regulation changes that are being proposed. In fact, I believe it is about 8 years too late. Missouri's deer herd is at the present time static due to overharvest and 3 years of EHD in specific areas. I fear, however, that the implementation of crossbows during the regular archery season is one of the reasons for the proposed reduced antlered and antlerless harvests, as their usage will inevitably increase the deer harvest during archery season. For this reason, I am personally against the usage of crossbows. Speaking for Archery Big Bucks of Missouri, I can say that as an organization, we too are against their usage during traditional archery season. If they were proposed for certain age groups (less than 15 and greater than 60 for example), this would be more in line with the recruit and retain mantra that you are trying to push as a reason for their introduction into regular archery. Last of all, I believe that unlimited harvest of deer should also be regulated in urban zones. If the MDC wishes to have unlimited harvest within city limits, I fully support it. But, the urban zones expand into rural areas which are also taking a huge hit due to overharvest.

Make cost of hunting permit reciprocal. If I have to pay 550 dollars for a permit in Iowa they should pay the same here, not only for deer but for turkey or predator permits. We have a resource available, why give it away when no other state does that for us?

I am opposed to allowing crossbows into archery season.

NO to crossguns for the entire archery season for EVERYONE except for those with medical exemptions. Crossguns do not meet the standards for archery equipment used for bow hunting. Depending on the skill level of the shooter, crossguns exceed compound, recurve and longbows when it comes to accuracy and speed. Unlike their traditional archery counterparts, crossguns can be pre-drawn, which reduces fatigue and are shouldered and aimed like a rifle. Lifetime member of the United Bowhunters of MO.

I am against eliminating the second buck for archery season. Most archers are more selective on what size of buck they would harvest after the firearms season, plus the success ratio drops considerably as you well know. Therefore, not having a buck to hunt you will have fewer archers not spending their money in small communities that depend on any resources available.

I like all of the proposed changes except for allowing crossbows during archery season. I have no opinion in regards to that. I ESPECIALLY like the idea of moving the second youth season to Thanksgiving weekend and cutting the antlerless only season down to three days. I also believe that the cost of non-resident deer hunting permits is WAY too low and should be reciprocal to

other states. In my opinion it is a slap in the face to resident hunters that out of state hunters, especially those from Iowa and Illinois, can come to Missouri and hunt relatively cheap when it costs Missouri residents over twice as much to hunt in Iowa or Illinois. I realize that this regulation change could possibly effect some non-resident landowners. I believe an exception could be made to accommodate non-resident landowners, who can prove through birth certificates, that they were born in Missouri. I would also like the MDC to look at changing the managed hunt selection process to a true preference point system; where hunters have a better chance of getting selected for a hunt every four or five years. I also believe that the managed hunts should only be available to Missouri residents. Overall, I believe that the MDC does a great job managing not just our deer herd, but all of our resources. I realize that changes and regulations must be made in a way that is in the best interest of all Missourians as well as our deer population. I appreciate the opportunity to voice my opinions and concerns and know that they will be considered fairly. B.J.

Youth season should be the proposed dates only. The early season is used by too many dads to kill a big buck while jr. is at home in bed. Some states have crossbows legal for hunters under 15 yrs. and over 55yrs., this seems to make more sense starting more young hunters and keeping older hunters. I strongly agree with your other changes. Thanks.

I feel that allowing crossbows during archery season eliminates the true challenge of hunting with the bow, this will allow inexperienced hunters that have not learned woodsmanship to easily harvest deer with a scope sighted gun like weapon that is very effective 60 yards and beyond. To me, MDC should lead by example and not follow what other states are doing. After all you should live up to the fact that MDC is one of the best conservation departments in the country.

I feel the gun portion should be moved further into December to stay away from the rut. Reducing the antlerless season to 3 days is a good idea. Expanding the youth seasons is always a good idea. Reducing the antlered deer in Archery is a good idea. If you want a second deer shoot a doe. I have been an archery hunter for over 50 years. Thirty plus years here in Missouri so I'm not a biased gun hunter. The use of crossbows won't be a big issue as long as people in a vehicle can't have the crossbow in the cocked position. It would be similar to a loaded firearm in my opinion. Make the non-resident fees reciprocal with the hunters home state. That would make it the most fair in my opinion. If I have to pay \$500 dollars to hunt Iowa or Kansas then they should have to pay the same to hunt Missouri.

I think allowing one buck for archery is a joke. I think about bowhunting all year long. As soon as season ends I start day dreaming about next year again. I only hunt for 3.5 + year olds. I have never killed 2 in a bow season yet, don't know many that have, but it's about the opportunity. But have had a lot of opportunities things just not worked out. I know at least 10 avid bow hunters and they also think it's a joke. What's the point of going hunting? Sure I kill a doe or 2 because I love deer meat but I love the hunt and challenge for a mature deer more. With the proposed changes my deer season, and several of my friends, could be over by the end of September if everything came together. I could give a \$\$\$* about rifle season. I only go for 3 days. If you're worried about buck numbers, you should focus more on dog runners and poachers and out of

season rifle hunters. Two years ago I was up north on state land 2 days before rifle season I had watched a deer of life time for over 30 minutes and he finally got within bow range I drew back he had no clue what was about to happen. Then out of nowhere a shot rings out and I was immediately pissed, not because I about got shot because I was on the ground, but because the freaking deer bolted. The jerks had also missed. The deer of a lifetime, gone. You guys are ruining hunting for the guys who do it right. These same guys that dog run, poach, and don't tag deer are still going to kill whatever and whenever they want. You need to have huge penalties in place, not slap on wrist. Limit the out of staters to 1 buck, not people like me that pay Mo taxes. Also, they should have to pay an extra fee to hunt on state ground. Again, ya'll all trying to ruin Archery season.

I feel the antlerless deer portion of the season should be eliminated if you maintain the alternative method season. Reducing the ten day firearm season to nine would not be fair to someone that can only hunt weekends and possibly get a couple extra days off on last weekend.

I do not think crossbows should be allowed during the archery season. It takes very little skill to use crossbows and I feel it will result in more deer being killed. I have been seeing less deer each of the past few years. I don't want to have to compete with other archery hunters if they are using crossbows. I think reducing the firearms portion of deer season by two days is fine. I do not agree with moving the youth season to right after rifle season. I do not think the youth should be hunting in the rut as it is. Way too many bucks are killed by dads out with their little kids. If crossbows are allowed (which they shouldn't be) then I would be fine with a one buck archery limit. If crossbows are not allowed during archery season, then we should keep the 2 buck limit as is.

I do not agree with using crossbows during archery season. I consider crossbows as more of a gun than bow. If you want to allow crossbows it should only be during a special shortened crossbow season. It takes less skill to use a crossbow. More deer will be wounded and killed/not found by these inexperienced hunters. Crossbows will also result in more poaching. I know of several people that will buy and use the crossbows at night from their vehicles if this proposal passes. Please do not allow the use of crossbows during archery season. The disabled or older hunters can already use them. I also do not want the youth season moved up to after Thanksgiving. The youth should not be hunting in the prime of the rut. I am fine with the other proposals.

Hello- In favor or state wide 4 point rule. In favor of fewer statewide antlerless permits for both archery and firearm. In favor of allowing only 1 antlered deer during archery season statewide. Would like to see firearm season shortened to no more than 7 days statewide. Would like to see alternative season include shotgun slugs as an alternative method, and the season being shortened to 4 days. Would also be in favor of all non resident deer and turkey tags being put into a lottery and by county much like Illinois tags system.

The proposed changes for firearms sound fine to me, it is the archery changes that I have a problem with and I hope that other people do to. As an avid archery hunter I spend a lot of time in the woods from Sep. 15 to Jan. 15 and try to be selective when it comes to harvesting a buck.

Being able to take two antlered deer during the season is a great way to manage your hunting property and harvest the older and more mature deer. We have already implemented the point restriction to increase the maturity of the deer and now we won't have an opportunity to harvest them. As much patience and skill it takes to kill a deer with a bow we should be able to keep our right for possessing two buck tags. Crossbows should not be allowed during archery season it is unfair and takes the challenge away from the sport. All this will allow is for more idiots in the woods with a loaded weapon.

You are headed in the right direction by limiting some of the deer seasons. If you are really trying to build the deer herd back, I recommend that you eliminate the antlerless season completely and move the alternative weapons season to the first part of December when opportunities are a little better to still connect with a buck. As far as the youth season goes, these kids already have the 2 best days of the season. They go out and cripple or kill these big bucks and most of them have never even killed a squirrel or rabbit. They don't need 3 more days of fairly prime time hunting just for themselves. They can hunt the regular season you know. You also need to change the age to be from 8-13 for kids to hunt. These 6 and 7 year olds are barely potty trained and the biggest gun they can shoot is a crippling .223! IF THEY ARE TOO YOUNG TO TAKE THE HUNTERS SAFETY COARSE, THEY ARE TOO YOUNG TO HUNT THE LARGEST GAME ANIMAL THAT WE HUNT IN MISSOURI. All the 14 and 15 year olds that I know hunt the youth AND regular seasons without a mentor. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

I think crossbows should be allowed during deer archery season and gun season, also in turkey season spring and fall. Thank you.

I strongly oppose crossbows being allowed in archery season! I also oppose reducing to one antlered buck for regular archery. I am for the rifle changes except I would like regular season pushed back one week. I like having different regulations for conservation areas. It allows managing different areas to make the best decisions for each area. It also allows different hunters different options.

I am OK with all of the proposed firearms season changes. I am OK with reducing the number of antlered bucks to (1) during archery season (as long as it does not affect the ability to harvest antlered buck during firearms season, max legal antlered deer would be (2) by any combined method.) I AM STRONGLY OPPOSED to the crossbow changes proposed during Archery season. This would be a terrible change to the ARCHERY season but if crossbows are going to be allowed, please consider designating a separate time late in the season (i.e. maybe the last three weeks of the season or something like that) to allow crossbow use for archery permit holders.

I support all the proposed changes for the 2016/2017 deer season. The proposed changes are very well thought out and make sense.

Changing the Nov firearms to 9 days is excellent. There should only be one youth hunt, no need for a second Jan hunt or moving the second youth hunt to Thanksgiving weekend. Changing archery bucks to one is excellent idea. Great change made last year to reduce number of does for

firearms. Charge cost to out of state hunters to cost more - cost me nearly 700 to hunt 1 deer in Kansas a few years ago. Double the price.

Regarding proposed Archery Season Changes. I like the proposed Firearm and most of the Archery Changes. I am against crossbows as a legal method during the archery deer and turkey season. Please consider the safety aspect of this as well as the additional edge it would give the hunter. Assuming this change would allow scopes and no poundage limit on the crossbow, you may as well be using a gun. Archery is about primitive methods, the true edge is to the deer and turkey in that the hunter is required to have motion in drawing the bow as well as an effective range limit. Allowing crossbows takes movement out of the picture and puts a high speed bolt with an increased range into the hunt. Please do not allow this. Thanks, D.C.

I currently reside in southern Missouri. Here in the area I truly feel that our deer populations are very abundant and see deer daily on my drive to and from work. Currently the proposed change of shortening the firearms season I do not like. As the reasoning for the later youth season being moved to the 3 days following Thanksgiving, there are many school districts who are now out of school the entire week of thanksgiving. This could provide additional days for youth as well as adults to hunt on the two extra days. On the proposition to allow crossbows, I am in full support. Crossbows provide an opportunity for youth to get involved in the sport of archery hunting much earlier and allows for more opportunities to harvest does. Finally, my thoughts on the limit to one archery buck tag. For those who hunt public land this might improve the deer herds in those areas, however, I happen to hunt on private ground and if I have two buck tags that gives me the opportunity to harvest a buck that may be inferior in genetics or may be injured, thus leaving me a buck tag to harvest a mature buck. In my 15 plus years of bow hunting I have never utilized both tags during archery season. So taking another tag away might not be necessary. I appreciate your time in considering these comments when it comes time to implement the new rules. I love being a resident of the state and chasing all the wild game it has to offer.

Stop trying to manage for maximum non resident fees! Concentrate on a healthy herd and stop trying to grow trophy deer! Cutting the buck limit to one per season is asinine when coupled with allowing everyone to use crossbows! Make crossbows legal for anyone under 15 or over 55! It's not like it matters than anyone comments, money is the name of the game and drawing out of state dollars with antler restrictions and limited buck tags is the route. I imagine within five years rifle season is moved to December and center fire rifles are no longer legal like the majority of trophy deer states. Oh well, I said my piece.

The antler point restriction should read: Bucks with at least three points on one side not including the brow tine. My wife and I have had several opportunities to shoot a big buck that would have had four points on one side if we could have seen the brow tine. We hunt in a heavily wooded area making it difficult to see the antlers much less count the points. All antlered deer over two points should have brow tines and with the regulation as it now is written, we had to pass up what was surely a legal buck. We hunt for meat not antlers and had to settle on a doe which reduces the deer population.

I am glad dialogue is starting to occur on our deer regulations. Kudos to the MDC for limiting the doe harvest in 2014. Unfortunately, I was very disappointed to see the deer regulation changes under consideration for 2016-2017. The main issue with the quality of our deer herd is that we hold our rifle season during the prime rut. You usually hear this comment from avid bowhunters, which I am not. I love rifle hunting, but also understand the massively negative impact on the age structure and genetics of the deer herd when mature bucks do not feel comfortable participating in peak periods of breeding activity. Please consider moving our rifle season back one or two weeks. When hunting in states like Kansas that hold their season later, the impact of this regulation of this regulation and others on the age structure of the deer herd is apparent. Additionally, I would like to see all hunters apply for tags in the spring. This method is effective in Kansas. Hunters should be responsible enough to apply for a tag in advance of buying their shells and a six pack at Walmart the night before. An application, even if unlimited, should be taking place. Specifically, non residents should be going through a draw. Missouri residents have to do this when we go and hunt in the majority of other states. Why are we allowing our states natural resources to be a free for all when we are not afforded the same luxury as nonresidents when hunting in other states?

Please allow crossbows to be used during archery season. I have not bow hunted for the last few years because of a torn rotator cuff that has not healed correctly. However, I am probably not eligible for a crossbow permit. If I could hunt with a crossbow I would be able to enjoy my favorite time of the year to hunt. Thank You!

I support the recommended changes. They look pretty good. I would like to suggest one additional change however. I would like to see all youths be able to harvest ANY deer during ANY open season. This will help us recruit and retain new, young hunters. All you have to do is look at the data to determine when we lose them and it is in their teen-aged years. Some of the loss is to things like sports, relationships, and other interests, but if we help them have memorable experiences early in life when they harvest their first deer, regardless of size, then we have a better chance of getting them back in their late teens or 20's.

I have no opposition to most of the proposed changes the ones that catch my eye, however, is the legalizing crossbow hunting during bow season and the reduction of antlered deer bkw tags to 1. I feel as if it is a very contradicting thing to do. I assume that the main reason for making crossbows a legal method during bow season is to create additional revenue and get people involved in a sport they otherwise may never try. I am an avid bowhunter and if I fill my antlered bow tag early in season I will have a hard time sitting in a tree again in the late season without an antlered tag in my pocket not because I don't manage the herd I do but I had experiences last season with nice bucks in bow range and no bow tag for them. The way I see it that would be penalizing the avid bowhunter from a late season buck tag to trade for some new hunters buying crossbows. Which I am not opposed to crossbows. I would prefer to have my late season buck tag also though.

I think you are missing the boat if you think the decline of archery hunters at the age of 40 is due to physical condition of the older hunter. If you look at the time and skill required to shoot a

compound bow accurately versus a cross bow you will find your answer to the decline in participation in my opinion. The skilled compound bow hunter shoots year round and most crossbow hunters shoot barely enough to sight in the crossbow, kinda like most week end firearm hunters, once on the range and good to go. I truly think you have missed this one and need to find the true reasoning behind the decline at age 40. Most old compound bow hunters will tell you that it is the lack of preparation/practice time that keeps them from going afield. If you're looking for an easy way to retain a lazy hunter than allow cross bows to be used. I think all it will accomplish is more wounded deer that are not counted towards the bag limit simply because the once on the range crossbow hunter does not understand or know the effective killing range of his weapon. Just because it is sighted in at 100 yards doesn't mean it is effective at that distance. No need for the allowance of crossbows in archery season.

Would like to see rifle moved out of the rut as well as increased nonresident tag prices. I do not wish to lose an archery buck and whole heartedly think youth should gain that extra day and would like to see the number of managed youth hunts increase.

I'm good with the 4 point rule. Since it has been implemented I have seen a lot of larger deer. However, my dad hasn't had a chance to harvest a deer since it has been implemented. I know that you don't follow the 4 point rule for the youth hunts. Maybe it would be nice to drop the 4 point rule for adults over 75. I know my dad has just turned 80 and still likes to hunt but doesn't spend as much time in the woods as he used to. It would be nice if he could have more opportunities to harvest another deer.

I am opposed to the proposed archery season to allow crossbows as a legal method and to reduce the limit of antlered deer during archery season to 1.

I support crossbow inclusion. Mixed feelings on losing second archery buck tag but would be ok with 2 bucks, only one with a rifle. If no buck is taken during rifle season let the person archery hunt for the second buck.

Strongly oppose the opening up of crossbow to all archery seasons. There is ample time for crossbows in alternative and gun seasons, and reserving their use to the disabled, injured, or age ravaged is adequate. We do not need to increase the rate of deer kill just now and that is what this would do. Secondly, do not take away the second archery deer; if you need to reduce the number of bucks killed, why not make it two max overall, with only one allowed in gun seasons. Also, non resident permits should be reciprocal with the state of residence, with a default of \$150. Finally, please ration or do something about the overpopulation of conservation areas in hunting seasons. At least make "pushing" with more than two participants illegal.

I am HIGHLY opposed to the full inclusion of crossbows into the entire archery season. I support the continued availability of crossbows for those who are unable to use a bow. However, what dedicated, Missouri based research has the MDC performed to assess the impact of the inclusion of a gun like weapon into the full archery season?

My property is within the current urban zone. I have harvested does and given them to share the harvest in an attempt to keep the population in check. The opening day of urban season I had 12 does in my field in front of my stand. If my math is correct, this number would change to 36 deer

the next season. I am told that if this change is made I would not be eligible for nuisance tags, and therefore the excessive number of deer in my area would continue to explode. I have 95 acres and am not able to have a garden due to the number of deer keeping it moved to the ground along with my flowers and shrubs. Please consider my situation, as I am sure it applies to others in similar areas. I would also site the number of yearlong care deer collisions in the area. K.M.

Shorten the gun seasons, give the deer a break, it seems like from rifle season on the deer are getting hunted with a firearm. Take the firearm portion out of the rut too many 3 1/2 and younger deer are getting killed. Look at Iowa, I think Missouri has the same genetics and more cover we could produce as big a deer as any state out there.

Firearms: Maintain the current timing but shorten to 9 days. Do not expand the late youth portion. Honestly, I don't believe the youth should have two separate portions. Give them the early or the late - one or the other, not both. Too many of the family members abuse this opportunity for themselves and not for the purpose intended. Eliminate the antlerless portions unless necessary based on area. Yes, allow crossbows as another legal method. You allow the use of a spear, why not the crossbow. It will generate additional revenue. I, for one, would enjoy another opportunity to hunt with a different type of weapon, again generating additional monies for conservation efforts through taxes collected on the sales of these things.

Summarized changes stated above are too vague and hard to fully understand there impact in the absence of associated comment regarding deer harvest projections and thus permit allocations. I will try to attend one of the open houses to hopefully increase my knowledge on these proposals. That said, there has been very robust harvest pressure on Missouri deer populations for many years now. I applaud MDC's management efforts during those years and feel that was the right harvest strategy. I also feel some reduction in harvest is needed now. Thus I support the antlerless season and firearms season length reductions. Adding the Thanksgiving youth season seems like a good move as well as it will help to continue the growth in young hunters. What I have serious problem with is the archery season proposals. Assuming the general aim of the antlerless and firearms seasons changes is to reduce the deer harvest some now, then the archery changes should likewise reflect this strategy. 1) Why not reduce the Archery Season length as well? 2) I have never been in favor of "unlimited" antlerless tags during this season, nor the additional antlered buck tag over the firearms seasons. 3) I feel the Archery Season Antlered Buck harvest should be fixed to be fair for all hunters. Antlered buck harvest should be limited to NO MORE THAN 1 PER HUNTER PER YEAR REGARDLESS OF METHOD. All information I see still reflects a low buck to doe ratio statewide. As written above the proposed Archery Season Antlered Buck change is not clear in this regard. It states "reduced to 1" - it's already 1 with an additional buck allowed during the firearm season. 4) Last crossbows - again the proposal above is absent any discussion on projected harvest and permit balance. It is very clear crossbows are the biggest growing trend in hunting methods and seems to be a nationwide trend. That does not mean, however, they should be simply added to the archery method since they shoot arrow-like projectiles. All indication is crossbows shoot faster, farther, and more accurately and thus very likely to lead to an increased harvest over exiting Archery methods.

Currently I DO NOT SUPPORT ADDING CROSSBOWS AS AN ARCHERY METHOD until a parallel change in the number of archery permits and season length is considered and implemented. Years ago I obtained the allowable crossbow medical exemption (due to chronic right shoulder problems). Even though I could, I subsequently decided not to hunt with my crossbow during Archery season. I feel the crossbow will provide too great a harvest advantage in the context of the current Archery permit allocations. With my comments submitted above I want to also say THANK-YOU for the great work and effort MDC has and continues to put into the management of all Missouri natural resources including the Whitetail Deer. The work you all do on behalf of Missouri residents and in the interest of our natural resources is truly impressive.

DO NOT allow crossbows as a legal method during the archery deer and turkey season!

I only have comments on 2 issues. The other ones I really don't have an opinion. 1st crossbows should be allowed. I think it gives more people an opportunity to go and maybe they will be able to make better kill shots because of not having to hold full draw for so long and being shaky and making a bad shot. I hate to hear the stories of the shot was too far back or in the leg or something where they didn't recover the deer. I am NOT for lowering the archery buck limit to 1. I like it how it is with 1 before and 1 after gun season. In some of my areas there are not that many does and they are not to be shot.

Please do not make cross bows legal during archery season. These things are closer to a rifle than a bow. Don't reduce the number of bucks that can be taken during archery season, but put a larger point restriction on the second. I'm all for extending youth season. I think they should get more time in the woods. And as far as non-resident tags go, we should charge the hunter the same cost that their state charges for non-resident tag. They come here for 225. and charge us 400 plus. That's not right.

As far as the proposed changes to Firearms Season: Keeping the current timing and reducing to 9 days the November portion sounds good to me. Expanding the late youth season and reducing the antlerless portion I agree with also. As for the proposed changes to Archery Season: Please do not allow crossbows to be used unless a medical or physical reason prohibits the hunter from pulling a regular bow (recurve or compound). Way too much of an advantage with the modern crossbows to allow them during archery season in my opinion. Also, please do not limit archery hunters to 1 antlered deer. Most archery hunters I know want to put a doe in the freezer and a buck on the wall already, if they are lucky enough for that to happen, but please don't take away the chance to kill 2 nice bucks with a bow if they put in the time before and again after gun season. Thanks

Firearms Season: Current timing of the deer season is good. DO NOT reduce the length of the season to 9 days. Do not expand the youth season. Not only reduce, but eliminate the antlerless deer season. Archery Season: DO NOT allow crossbows in archery season unless there is a medical need. DO NOT limit the taking of antlered deer during archery season to one. I would suspect that the number of archery hunters harvesting a second antlered deer is quite low. By limiting the take of antlered deer to only one by archery method would decrease the man days in the field and significantly reduce the archery hunter outdoor experience - because of less days in

the field. Conservation Area Regulations: Manage and changes regulations as needed to manager a healthy & high level deer population, and a good buck/doe ration to provider a high level of hunter satisfaction.

I support crossbows.

The proposals sound quite reasonable.

I would suggest enacting the changes listed above for the 2015-2016 season. They are very reasonable, especially the late youth portion beginning the day after Thanksgiving.

Change alternative season back to muzzleloader ONLY. Shorten doe season to seven days. Make it so you can shoot only one buck with a bow and one buck with a rifle or muzzleloader. legalize crossbow for deer and turkey. Close all high fence deer farms and hunting preserves.

Shut down all high fenced areas to control CWD. Change alternative season back to muzzleloader only.

1. 2-buck rule. If you do adopt the 2 buck rule, I recommend unused, firearm any-deer permits be allowed to be used during the second half of the archery season to harvest a buck. This is the same rule currently applied in the alternative methods season. This would give those who hunt public land and/or bucks only the opportunity to participate in the second half of the archery season with little impact on the overall buck harvest. 2. Firearm season length. I recommend you keep the firearms deer season 11 days in length. For those of us who hunt on public land, it is a challenge, to say the least, to harvest a buck. The last two days of the season are usually our best chance to have the woods to ourselves and enjoy some quality, solo hunting experiences. Being in the woods alone during firearms season is an exhilarating experience. If you did change the season to nine days, then the archers would return to their hunt two days earlier and I doubt the deer harvest would be all that different overall. 3. Crossbow rule. I recommend crossbows only be allowed in the second part of the archery season after the firearms deer season. I use a crossbow for deer in Illinois and a compound bow in Missouri and only shoot bucks. I have found the crossbow to be much more lethal because of the increased range, better accuracy, higher speed and minimal movement required. My experience has been that per buck sighted, one gets a shot about twice as often while crossbow hunting compared to compound bow hunting. Frankly, it takes very little skill and almost no practice to become sufficiently proficient with a crossbow to make humane kills. I believe much of the support for crossbow hunting is based upon this premise. I also believe, the total harvest doesn't change much where crossbows are legal because the same hunters who take a deer regularly with a bow switch to crossbows and continue with similar success but in a shorter amount of time in the woods. I also sense that significant numbers of new hunters are not drawn to archery hunting because crossbows are allowed. Other than for the elderly and physically challenged, the crossbow merely offers a quicker, easier, little practice time, way to get "your buck". 4. Crossbow survey. Before finalizing your crossbow decision, I recommend you sample some of the 10,000 Missouri crossbow hunters/or those crossbow-users participating in the Bow Hunter Observation Survey to get an assessment of success rates per day hunted. 5. 2 buck rule and crossbows. I recommend you tie the number of buck tags per year, to your decision on the use of crossbows. I hunt deer in

Pennsylvania, where only 1 buck can be harvested in all the seasons and crossbow hunting is allowed in the archery season. It really makes you think twice about taking a mediocre buck in archery season, knowing that there will be no opportunity to take a better buck in rifle season. So here's my specific recommendations: a. If crossbows are legal throughout archery season, then allow only 1 buck tag for all seasons. b. If crossbows are legal only for the second half of archery season, then allow 1 firearms buck tag and 1 archery buck tag. c. If crossbows are only legal for the physically challenged, then keep the regulations as 1 firearms buck tag and 2 archery buck tags. 6. Archery turkey rule. No matter what your regulations are for number of buck tags in archery season, keep the 2 turkey tag archery rule. You've got to leave some reason to get out and hunt after the firearms season is over. 7. Where I am coming from. 2014 marked my 60th deer season. I hunted 62 days in 3 states-Missouri (archery and firearms), Illinois (crossbow), Pennsylvania (firearms), and on public land exclusively (state conservation areas, national forest and corps of engineer land). I hunt bucks only and am a participant in the Bow Hunter Observation Survey. 8. Follow-up. I would be happy to have further discussion on any of the above topics via e-mail or phone as a representative of the over 65, avid deer hunter group.

The only change I support is moving the youth season to after thanksgiving. Please do not make any other changes to the regulation.

If we take one buck tag away from the bow hunter, if we don't fill our rifle buck tag can we fill it with a bow after the rifle season. Still the same number of buck tags (2) for the whole deer season. Would also like to see the antler point restriction state wide. Move rifle season out of the rut and cut it down to seven days. Have the youth season first weekend beginning of October and the second one during Thanksgiving. Thanks.

I am against using crossbows during archery season except that with an exemption status or I would be in favor of someone over age 65-70 being allowed. This would only encourage someone to buy a crossbow just to get extra deer in the freezer who otherwise would not put in the time to learn how to shoot a compound or traditional style bow. Basically, advocates for lazy unskilled hunters and would put additional pressure on an already decreasing deer herd. In addition, it is a gun like weapon and should not be used during the archery portion. If they choose they can use a crossbow during gun season or the current alternative methods season. I am also against removing one antlered deer from the archery season. Archers have a hard enough time and some hunters will tend to let smaller bucks go early on in hopes of seeing more mature deer later in the season knowing they have all season to be patient. Now you will cause archery hunters to harvest potentially less desirable bucks before gun season knowing that gun season eliminates a large portion of Missouri Bucks. In closing, please do not pollute our regular archery season by allowing the use of crossbows or remove a buck from our archery limits.

I am very supportive of the proposed rule change that would allow the use of crossbows as a legal method during the deer season and turkey season.

I think we can reach our goal of having older age class bucks by following Kansas and Iowa's strategies. A rifle season starting December 3 would not disrupt the breeding as much and less bucks would be killed. We also need to limit out of state hunters to a lottery like Kansas does.

We need to go ahead and get rid of antler less rifle season (if you can't kill one during rifle, archery, and alt methods then you aren't going to kill one during antler less). Crossbows do not belong in archery season (mostly because of more wounded/lost dead deer). Adding crossbows would only benefit sports outfitters' sales and out of state residents that will come to Missouri to buy an archery tag to kill a buck. It would not help residents. Keep the archery buck limit at 2 and just don't allow crossbows. The biggest impact on deer mortality is gun season (moving the rifle season would be the most bang for buck impact). Archery is the least impact so please don't change it so you can sell more tags and pretend to be making a huge change to help the deer herd and get more mature bucks. Way more bucks are killed during gun season and meaningful change will come by changing rifle season regulations.

I am in favor of more restrictive changes than you have proposed. I want to see the deer population to increase to the 1995 to 2000 level. My kids don't want to hunt at the current population levels. Thanks

RE: Archery Season Changes: The evidence exists and definitively proves that a crossbow is a superior weapon to a bow. The evidence from Wisconsin and Pennsylvania is overwhelming. Crossbow hunters already have 38 days to hunt and that is enough!

NO CROSSBOWS! Firearms deer season should have been moved to the first week in December, trying to move it to the week after Thanksgiving was a mistake. I find it very interesting that all anyone can ever say is that the crossbow will not affect deer numbers etc, etc, etc. but the proposed change to limit archery to one buck is being offered at the same time the crossbow is being proposed. Coincidence? I don't think so. Non-resident tag price should be reciprocal, if it costs a Missouri Resident 600 dollars to go to Iowa then that's what those resident should pay to hunt here. Youth firearms season should be an antlerless season the first week in October. If the crossbow is a forgone conclusion and I'm just wasting my time typing this then I would make one suggestion. Make Missouri and either or state, you can either hunt with a firearm or you can hunt with a bow, but you can't do both. If revenue is an issue, raise the price of resident tags. Double it, or triple it, would be fine with me, the price would still be one of the cheapest out there. D.H.

I think it is great to use crossbows for deer & turkey hunting. It's time to keep up with other states & increase wildlife revenues!

Charge out of state hunters the same as they charge Mo hunters. Allow crossbow during archery season. Extend youth season. Shorter season would be OK.

I agree allowing cross bows in the archery season. I agree with 1 antlered deer in archery season, I agree with everything that was posted to the firearm changes

I agree allowing cross bows in archery season, I agree with everything posted in the Conservationist magazine on firearms season. I agree with 1 antlered deer in archery season.

Keep November portion the same. Do not expand youth hunt. Leave antler less portion same.

Please do not legalize crossbows for all hunters! Archery season is beloved for the challenge and the rush of getting in close to the beautiful creatures know as white-tailed deer. Archery season is

a time for avid hunters to hit the woods without the clamor of weekend warriors blasting every deer that moves with their firearms. It allows for land owners to manage their deer herd for genetics, age, and herd health. Legalizing crossbows means that much more time for hunters to get the wild thrill of a casually (and in my opinion unethically) pulling a trigger to kill a deer with their "bow". If legalizing crossbows is inevitable then I beg you to call the season what it is, crossGUN season. Legalizing crossbows is just a ploy to raise more money from out of state hunter tags. Crossbow hunting is in no way bowhunting. The challenge and the rush of drawing back on the bow is removed when using a crossbow. It just provides irresponsible hunters that much more time in the woods killing all the deer they can with no regard for herd management. Bow season should be left as it is, a two buck season where ethical hunters can get a true thrill from the challenge of closing the distance on a mature deer. Please, I beg you as a young hunter, do not legalize crossbows for all hunters. I want Missouri's deer herd to thrive in the future for my sake, and for the sake of my kids.

I would like to strongly encourage the Commission to consider the language of "There shall be a limit of two bucks, irrespective of method, providing that only one buck may be taken with a firearm." This gives those like me who choose to hunt with only archery tackle a chance to take a second buck and not be limited to purchasing a gun tag and a small 9-day window for our second buck.

I absolutely do not want urban zones eliminated. Archery is such a great season and limiting it to one buck is bad idea. It is so challenging to harvest mature whitetails with a bow if you can harvest 2 bucks you should be allowed to. Rifle season is a good length if the doe population is low then it would be ok to shorten doe season until the population recovers but evaluating what the population can handle is a must when setting the length of seasons. Yes, please allow crossbows to be used. It will help older people and handicapped people engage in the sport of archery. As far as non resident, maybe allowing for a non resident antlerless tags for a reduced price if the population can handle it. Just my two cents, Thanks for listening to hunters.

I do not agree with only allowing one buck during archery season. Very few hunters took the second buck but many tried.

I support allowing crossbows during archery season, lowering archery harvest to one buck, and shortening antlerless season to 3 days. I also support removing two days from firearms season. I do not support leaving firearm season during peak of rut! I believe moving firearm season back one week would have the greatest impact on age structure/quality of bucks in our state. Spring turkey season begins after more than 50% of breeding is done so deer firearm season should also start after more than 50% of breeding is done. Youth deer seasons are a good thing but the early youth season should be early to mid October and late youth season should be end of November. Youth deer season is about introducing kids to hunting not making sure kids have opportunity to shoot trophy buck. Early youth portion the first weekend of November hampers bow hunters chances in many areas. I want to finish my comments by stating I have been a Missouri resident my whole life and have deer hunted here for over 30 years. Deer hunting in Missouri has come a long way since I was a young kid. Missouri Dept of Conservation has done a good job managing

our deer population. Missouri is a good state for a deer hunter and with a few changes it can be a great state for deer hunting. Please ensure you continue to make changes based on what's best for deer herd/deer hunter and not solely on public opinion. Thank you!

I can understand why some people might think one buck instead of two with a bow would make you be more picky on the size of the buck you shoot, but I think it would hurt the hunter's ability to take a buck that will never amount to anything. Also, to have the ability to shoot an older buck in the same year because I see a lot of deformed antlers on bucks because of inbreeding. In my opinion, since I ONLY bow hunt, I wish it would remain 2 bucks with archery. Thank-You

I don't want to lower the bucks in the archery season to one. I like the current system of 1 before gun season and 1 after.

I would agree with trying all of the proposed changes.

Do not want to see the loss of a buck tag for bow hunters. If you want to reduce the amount of bucks killed, raise out of state license fees. This will lower number of tags issued with no loss of revenue due to fee increase. Iowa, Kansas and Illinois all out border states have above \$400 permits. Would like to see MO set in place a way to charge them what our hunters have to pay in their states. I have hunted Illinois but is not worth the expense. I do hunt Kentucky with much less cost, for example. If you want less bucks killed move rifle season out of the rut. I would like to keep the length of rifle season as allows more availability to take off work to hunt. I would be fine with youth season increase if took away the early portion of their season. Youth hunters should have more chances for draw hunts than now available. Cross bows will open up more opportunity for other hunters to get in the woods which is good for our sport but if it means giving up a buck in bow season so rifle only guys can now have a crack at archery season am against it. In closing, I travel around the state to buck hunt and if that 2nd buck is taken away it will mean that I stay home from some hunts. That means no hotels, gas, or food spent in some much needed towns economies.

There are more and more restrictions being placed on Missouri hunters with no attention being given to the influx of non-resident hunters. More and more of our public lands are being overcrowded and more of our deer and turkey are being taken by out of state hunters, making it more and more difficult to fill our tags. Of the non-resident hunting permits that I have investigated from other states, Missouri is the lowest of most. This makes Missouri very attractive to the non resident hunters especially from Arkansas. I can't tell you the number of times that I have looked around at sun up from my stand to find myself surrounded by orange. Then to find on the trek out that all of the vehicles parked along the way were wearing out of state tags. These regulations may be across the board for resident and non resident alike, but these may be received better and still accomplish the same, if not more effective, if it were a little less appealing for out of state hunters. MDC would also have greater access to more funds for conservation efforts by increasing fees for non resident hunters. Then possibly reduce limits for out of state hunters to one deer only. Also, close the first week of turkey season to non resident hunters and raise fees for that as well. We, as residents of this wonderful state, are being squeezed out of some of the most prime hunting/recreation areas by people that don't even live

here. Also, there are many families that rely on deer season to feed their families throughout the rest of the year. These people will be hurt the most by the new regulations and will only serve to inadvertently encourage illegal hunting. All of these regulations come on the heels of the most recent loss of "bonus" counties. And yet nothing has really changed for the non resident hunters. Additional: California and Oregon both charge \$450 for a non resident deer tag and that is only for one deer. California also requires a non resident hunting license before you can even buy a deer tag. You must also declare the district you will hunt in. This is the type of non resident regulations that Missouri needs to consider.

I am in favor of all the regulation changes proposed.

Maintain the current timing of the November portion and reduce the length to 9-days: I agree with this. Expand the late youth portion to 3-days beginning the first Friday after Thanksgiving: I agree with this as well. I believe that, given the timing, our young hunters would see much more rut activity, which will ultimately keep them enthused with hunting. Reduce the length of the antlerless portion to 3-days and begin on the first Friday in December: To improve the quality and quantity of the herd, I do not disagree with shortening the length of doe season but I think cutting it 9 days is a bit drastic. Instead of altering doe season to be 3 days, why not limit it to 5 days? That way there is a decrease in the season, but still 5 solid days to hunt. Eliminate the urban zones portion: I am in agreement with this. Allow crossbows as a legal method during the archery deer and turkey season: I wholeheartedly disagree with this. Crossbows should be limited to those with physical incapacities. We do NOT need to put them in the hands of every "bowhunter." I would be thoroughly disappointed if crossbows were allowed for all to use while hunting. Reduce the limit of antlered deer during the archery season to 1: I agree with this, just as long as antler restriction is kept in place. Simplify conservation area regulations by limiting methods and use of firearms and archery antlerless permits: I agree with this as well, protect our herd.

EVERYBODY I talk to wants the 4-point antler rule extended to the rest of the state. Why can't this happen? As to crossbows, you have so many bowhunters that hunt now that are poor archers. I constantly hear about bowhunters who hit deer but never find them. Anybody that bowhunts should have to demonstrate a certain level of skill. But, the MDC is never going to do that. I agree that people should only take one buck. Bowhunters now wound and lose one buck for each one tagged, time to try to fix this. Please do something about all the d-mned idiots that deer hunt. My grandfather's generation hunted like they were mad at deer. Today's sportsmen are different. Let's reward the good guys and get rid of the sh-theads.

I understand and agree with the proposed changes but it would nice to be able to attend a meeting but they are all a least an hour away. Why do you only have them in the bigger cities like around KC, St.Louis, Springfield, It feels like the smaller towns don't matter. There are a lot of hunters here in Pulaski county and in Ft. Wood area.

Should have some meetings in some of the smaller towns, the closet one to me is at least an hour away.

Proposed changes seem reasonable. I would like to know how many bucks you think you will save by reducing the archery quota to 1 buck. Are there really that many hunters that take 2 buck via archery? Not mentioned but I would like to see more opportunity to muzzle load hunt in October. I would rather have a shorter muzzle loader state wide season in October than the current season in December. Regarding the next question about cost of non-resident permits, I think we should charge the citizens of each state the same amount they charge us when we hunt in their state.

While I would deny youth hunters nothing I would like to see the antlerless portion coincide with the Thanksgiving weekend. Thanksgiving is family time and so is hunting. In addition, for some, it may reduce the need for taking vacation time. Not sure why youth and antlerless could not coexist over that weekend. For landowners what is better than having Thanksgiving AND deer hunting? That is what heaven must be like.

I think you should leave deer season the way it is.

The crossbow idea is good but limiting to only one buck sucks. Since we have antler restrictions where I hunt in Gasconade county it already limits my chances of getting a buck in the second half of the season. Also, most of the time I hunt after gun season. I know I probably won't see much but knowing the buck of a life time might come by keeps me going.

1. OK with 9 days (Saturdays and Sundays) are important to most hunters, being that the weekend days are the only days some folks can hunt between school/work. 2. Good with the youth change. 3. Good with the antlerless portion to 3-days in December. 4. NO changes for urban zones portion. 5. OK with changes but only if current permitted individuals are Grandfathered in, if rule were to change back. Although, worried about injuries/fatalities. 6. NO change on antlered deer to 1 unless crossbows are permitted for all. 7. NO opinion on limiting methods and use of firearms and archery antlerless permits.

Crossbows should not be allowed during the archery season. They should be called crossguns instead of crossbows. They have static stored energy, have a stock, trigger, scope and are far closer to being a gun than a bow. MDC currently has it correct with having them in the alternative season and it shouldn't be changed. The issues: gun hunters have been envious for years that bowhunters can hunt during the prime time of the rut, before the gun hunter has a chance. They are making the push for crossbows because it will allow them to hunt during the rut with a weapon that has almost the range of a muzzleloader. Second, manufacturers/retailers want to profit for crossbow sales without regard to the Missouri sportsman or the deer resource. Third, the Missouri deer herd is no longer expanding and has pressure from CWD and blue tongue. There isn't a biological reason to increase the deer kill (otherwise why are you proposing reducing the buck kill?) The proposal to add crossbows to the archery season has politics written all over it. MDC should be managing the resources on biology, not politics. I have been a supporter of MDC for many years including turning in game violators for successful prosecution. I have purchased waterfowl permits and stamps and haven't waterfowl hunted in years. However, I will say that my support will be reconsidered if crossbows are allowed during the archery season. This includes my support of the parks tax. I feel safe in saying there are many true

sportsmen in Missouri that feel the same way, whether they have communicated this to you or not. My final word is you have the crossbow season correct as it is and it should be left as is.
9 day firearms season, yes. Allow crossbows for archery, yes. 1 antlered deer for archery, yes. I don't think the late youth season is worthwhile, kids are tired of hunting by then.
I do not agree with shortening the November season but I do agree with shortening the antlerless season and eliminating urban zones. I agree with reducing limit to one doe in archery season. I believe the black powder season should be limited to cap & ball or flint lock rifles only. Eliminate the center fire black powder rifles as legal.
On the crossbow for archery, at least let folks over 55 years of age use them if there ends up being too much push back on their overall use during normal archery season.
I believe the firearms deer season should be shortened but also moved to Dec 1. Move it more out of the rut. I don't believe the Youth season should be expanded. I agree with shortening the Antlerless portion and move it to later December. I agree with eliminating the urban zones. I agree with the use of crossbow during archery/turkey seasons. I agree with reducing the number of antlered deer taken to one during the archery season. But only if that coincides with a drop in out of state license fees. Other than that I believe the out of state license fees are fine as they are with the bag limits what they are. I have no comment on the simplifying the Conservation regulations. Missouri has great potential and I believe the MDC does a wonderful job. I just wish the rifle portion was moved to December and shortened considerably. With that, I thank all of you for what you do and by allowing the hunters to voice their opinions.
I actually think we have too many seasons and too much hunting pressure on our deer herd. I would like to see the elimination of the doe season as well as the second youth season at least until the numbers come back up. Pertaining to the question below I think we should charge whatever the out of state hunters state charges a Missouri resident for their out of state permits. A reciprocal state to state permit fee.
I was born and raised in MO. I spent nearly all of my working life paying income taxes to MO, however, every year MO keeps raising the non-resident deer and turkey permit fees. I keep paying them, as all my hunting buddies hunt and have property in MO, but it seems as if MO has the attitude that since we keep paying the new rates then we will pay whatever they raise them to. Secondly, I will be 65 this year and can no longer consistently draw a bow and maintain a draw in order to bow hunt. I haven't bow hunted in several years because of that. At least allowing hunters over a certain age to use a crossbow, as some other states do, would allow folks like me to keep bow hunting.
Mostly agree with the changes you are proposing.
Do not shorten a season when you can regulate how many animals are taken by the number of permits.
Crossbows should NOT be allowed as a legal method during archery season. Reducing the limit of antlered deer to be taken with archery equipment will not have a significant impact on populations or recruitment, and should not be done. I also do not agree with the 4 point rule

being so widespread. I hunt for meat, not large antlers and I want to be able to shoot what may be the only deer I get a chance at all season! I am fine with all other changes.

Including crossbows in the archery season makes sense, especially for older hunters who find it increasingly difficult to draw and maintain draw on a conventional bow. I hope you adopt this into the regulations, at least for hunters 65 and older.

Agree with one buck per Bowhunter. Agree with rifle season length reduction would welcome pushing it back a week. Disagree with crossbow being legal during archery season. Already have seasons for use (rifle and primitive weapon) correct? Disagree with youth season timing, September is my suggestion. Don't believe we need a December doe season at all. I own 42 acres in Callaway and see nowhere near the deer I used to.

All of your proposals seem to be logical and good. Especially favor limiting one antler deer for bow season if crossbows are allowed. I personally favor crossbows as being legal during archery season as it will give us older hunters with physical challenges to get back in the woods during a beautiful time of the year.

In general, I'm happy with the proposed changes. Specifically: Length and timing of firearms season, support reduction to 9 days. Ok with the timing, although I'd like to know if we could substantially improve reproduction/recruitment by moving the firearms season back one week, or breaking it into two shorter segments to permit more normal deer interaction. 2nd youth season, I really like these changes. We need more young hunters. Reduced antlerless season, I support it. Urban zone elimination, no opinion, I never took advantage of this option. Crossbows, I'm ok with them during the archery season, but would also support it if the rule for crossbows only applied to people under 16, over 55, or with disabilities. One antlered deer with archery, I support this, because I believe it will allow more two and three-year-old bucks to survive. Overall, nice work reviewing our program. Thanks.

As a non resident land owner I pay the same taxes as everybody else in the state of Missouri. I also frequent the state of Missouri and contribute to the economy. There should be discounts for non-resident land owners as their once was for licenses. It's unfair to make nonres land owners pay the same as non-residents. Any increase would make it difficult for non-resident hunters to come hunt our state and the loss of these revenues could result. These questions posed to Missouri residents there is no doubt in my mind residents will say the pricing is too low. Obviously, as they don't have to pay for it. in fact, Missouri resident land owners pay zero for licenses. This is where the money should come from is start charging Missouri resident land owners for licenses. Why do they hunt for free?

Please do not limit archery antlered deer to one. Statistically speaking, not enough bowhunters can be killing two bucks a year to impact the population. Allowing crossbows on public land is not a good idea. CA's are already crowded enough without adding crossbows into the equation.

Please consider moving the alternative method to the first week of December, they it was originally. The rest of it I don't have a problem with.

I disagree with the proposal to extend the late youth season. I am in agreement with all other proposed firearms season changes. I agree with the proposed Archery season changes.

Crossbows for archery are an excellent change. I hunt with one. Much more accurate, safer, and enable younger and older hunters to hunt. Encouraging hunters is important to continue the sport. Will reduce crippled deer numbers. I suggest crossbow hunter education. It is a different technique which is not widely understood. A new user can get hurt if crossbow is not used correctly. Misconceptions are the rule. I would attend a crossbow training session. Leave the alternative methods season alone. I spend more days hunting with my muzzleloaders than any other method. I do not see data on methods used during alternative method season. How many successful hunters used pistols? Muzzleloaders? Expand antler point restriction state wide. We see more big bucks on our farm since it came into effect. Thanks for the job you do!

Keep current timing of season. I don't think postponing a week would change anything as far as breeding is concerned. It would limit the number of deer that move though. Drop back to the old 9 day season. Two extra days is no big deal. Postpone, or do away with late youth season. We were sold on the idea that the late season for youth was added so that the kids who got rifles for Christmas could use them instead of waiting till the following fall. Putting it before Christmas defeats that whole premise that we were given. In addition, limit youths to only one deer of either sex during the youth season. I also think they should have to follow the point restriction. Since the point restriction was implemented, it is much more common to see nice shooter bucks during the youth portion. Personally, I am not a fan of the Youth Seasons. I still think most of the kids don't kill those deer on their own. The suggestion on the antlerless season is ok. Eliminate urban portion would be ok too. As far as archery is concerned, keep crossbows out. Those of us who muzzleloader hunt gave up our season to include crossbows, pistols, etc. I think limiting it to 1 antlered deer during archery is good. Even limiting does to 3 would be ok, possibly more in urban areas. Please do not make changes to muzzle loading season. That is a nice time of year to hold that. Finally, BRING BACK CHECK STATIONS! I have heard stories of so many people who either don't check in deer, lie about the deer they killed, check in does when they killed bucks, etc. I think because check stations were done away with, more deer and more illegal deer are being killed than are being reported. I don't think the idea of "telechecking" worked out as planned.

I don't support adding crossbows to archery season. I do support antler point restrictions. I do not support shortening the doe season. I do support crossbows for those with physical limitations. I can go 1 mile down my gravel road and count over 60 deer in that mile. My wife has hit 2 deer with her car this winter. I hit one with my truck last year. They are damaging crops in the area. I've noticed an average of one carcass per mile along area highways. I don't see a "shortage" We hunt as well as several friends to supplement food for our families. The single largest aid to population has been limiting bucks. That kept several "out of town" hunters out of the area. In my area alone I hear surrounding hunting properties sound like world war 3. Catching and prosecuting those who bait, cull and poach would be the strongest approach to aid population

growth. We exercise land management to create favorable habitat. True hunters don't just expect to have deer come to them. Don't let consumerism take over.

Do not agree with crossbows during archery season. Do not agree with the one buck limit during archery season. Agree with everything else.

I agree with maintaining current timing and reduction to 9 days. I agree with allowing crossbows as a legal method during archery deer and turkey season. I agree with reducing the antlered limit to one during the archery season. Thank you for the outstanding job you do.

EHD has had a major impact on the herd numbers here. CWD began in a confinement, the horse is out of the barn, so do whatever we need to do.

Maintain the same length and timing of the current deer season. Expand the youth season as considered. Reduce the antlerless season to three days. Do not allow crossbows in the archery season and keep them in the alternate weapons season. Reduce the antlered buck to one in the archery season. Please keep the antlered buck minimum to the four point rule. The antler restriction is working in Camden County! Reducing the doe take was excellent. Consider Non-Resident Landowner deer permits. I put thousands of dollars into my property for habitat improvement every year. We also spend thousands every year to travel to Missouri to hunt/accommodations/meals/rental vehicles/equipment/etc.

I think allowing crossbows during bow season is a great idea across the board. Another option could be an age restriction for example at least 50. I personally think that the way its set up now where you have to get a doctor to sign a document has a lot of room for fraud. As easy as it is to get a doctor to do it you might as well just allow it.

I agree with all recommended changes. I am especially in favor of allowing crossbow usage during archery season. As I have aged, I have lost strength in my shoulders and arthritis in my arm, preventing me from archery hunting. I'm sure I am not the only person with this problem. I agree strongly with the extra day for youth. They are the future of our outdoor sports and conservation goals. Anything, no matter how small, that may encourage our youth to become involved in the outdoor activities is invaluable.

In general I like all the proposed changes except: "Reduce the limit of antlered deer during the archery season to 1". The current system where you can only take one buck before and one after deer season works great in my humble opinion. You still have to be careful to take the right buck or you will not get to shoot a big one as the season gets hotter. Late season hunting after gun season is much harder for bow and if you get a shot at a buck you should be able to take the deer. In my area south of Halltown, MO, I am more concerned with populations of deer. In all honesty I would rather have point restrictions than lose my ability to take another buck if the right one finally showed up. You can drive O hwy in an evening from I44 south for 3-4 miles and easily see 50+ does before you hit Turnback Creek.

I am not in favor of allowing crossbows in archery season. They can currently be used during firearm and alternative seasons. Archery hunting is an area of growth in Missouri and nationally. Don't know why we want to create more growth when we cannot predict the future outcome of

this change. A shorter season or more harvest restrictions would be an issue for most to all archers. I assume allowing crossbows during archery season would recruit a minimal number of new hunters. I do not understand not allowing the opportunity to harvest another post firearm season buck. The total number of bucks harvested is minimal. Controlling harvest will be accomplished with firearm season restrictions.

I agree with most of the changes being made and think they are for the good, however I do think with Crossbows being allowed during the Archery season there will be a higher number of deer taken during that time frame, even though limiting the bucks to 1 will help, but how do you address the over population of urban deer, this would be a good place to also use archery as a method to control those deer especially since the use of a crossbow will be allowed, think this needs to be a controlled situation where you issue a permit just for such use this can be controlled by the urban area and MDC to monitor. Think you are doing a great job, we live in a changing world and MDC and wild life will also feel these changes along with the hunters and all takers of wildlife. Also, on the cost of non-resident, if you compare Mo. to other states I think the fee is about right. I pheasant hunt in South Dak. and the fee there is 125.00 for 2 5day permits or a total of 10 days.

As a bow hunter I propose that pushing out the November portion of gun season to be a great idea as a bow hunter we strive and hunt as much as possible but when the rut comes we are pushed out of the woods by rifle hunters as for us private land owners we still feel the overwhelming pressure that the firearms season puts on the animals. The deer become skittish pushing them deeper into hiding. This is causing us bow hunters to become discouraged by the time the gun season ends the deer are so deep into hiding we lose the chance to harvest the buck we have watch for 3 months that never comes into range only to watch fellow neighbor shoot the same deer at 300 yards out. If the antlered season was one week later in the season the state of Missouri would see huge increases in bow hunting in which in return would bring more stability to our small communities and to or state. Give us archery hunters a chance to take advantage of what gun hunters have been able to do since day 1, please consider a later date. Coming from a very large bow hunting community and being a land owner of multiple properties the MDC would substantial results in this change.

I do not agree with allowing the use of crossbows during the archery season, but for approved disabilities and hunters over age 75. I agree with all other recommended changes listed above.

I agree with some of the change considerations and disagree with others. Changing the length of the firearms to 9 days would be fine. It was that way for many years and not many people hunt the last two days now. Reduce archery bucks to one would help us have more mature bucks. Good idea. In North West Mo where I hunt we don't have half the deer we used to have (I been hunting there for 7 yrs), so the antlerless portion needs to be completely eliminated. Lots of deer have died off. They need time to reproduce to increase herd size. I am totally against allowing crossbows during archery season. Shooting a crossbow is like shooting a short range gun with scopes and all. I'm all for allowing disabled people to use them but not able bodied people. It waters down the sport of bow hunting. Leave it the way it is! I think the Late Youth Season

needs to Stay the way it is-2 days in Jan. and I don't like the early portion being moved to the week before rifle season. This is the best time for Bowhunters and is screwed up sometimes by this. Another thing is some adults are using this as a time to hunt big bucks with a gun before rifle season. Most youth hunt during regular gun season if they are interested in hunting anyway, so all these youth seasons are not necessary. One season in Oct would be sufficient.

I have hunted in Missouri as a bowhunter & rifle hunter for thirty-five years and have seen our deer herd increase to a stable population in Cape County southeast Mo., whereas early on the population was very low. The buck-doe ratio is great now. It saddens me to think that you would jeopardize the population allowing the crossbow as legal method to physically capable hunters. The crossbow is a fire-mechanism with incredible accuracy at lengthy distances and will recruit many otherwise rifle hunter to take advantage of the population and reduce numbers during archery season. Over a short period of time as the hunter population increases during the bow seasons you will find that all you have accomplished is reducing deer numbers to all-time lows. If you change your mind later you know a lot of crossbow hunters will use it anyway once they spend money to buy them. Which brings light to the idea that it is political for economic reasons and not conservation or the better interest of deer herds in Missouri. I am very proud on what this state has accomplished and very disturbed to hear about this move. I of coarse have no problem with the disabled in this case. I know what a crossbow can do, and with the laziness of people these days to do things the easy way I am also afraid we will be losing ground to the heritage and experience of our youth to become bowhunters. Please reconsider your decision and not weaken our youth and wildlife population as it refers to bowhunting in Missouri. Our children will be stronger for it.

In favor of leaving the season timing as is 9 days is fine with me. In favor of three day youth season or anything to get more young folks in the woods. The urban season makes no diff to me. I would like to be able to use a crossbow in archery season. I am not as strong as I was at 50. One antlered deer in archery season is fine with me. Special regs apply to CA's let that manager determine what method and how many permits can be used.

I feel like the skills required to harvest game with a crossbow and any of the other type bows are not comparable. I do not feel they should be lumped together. Thanks for your time.

Move firearm season out of the rut. Reduce buck limit to one person season. If you shoot a buck during archery you're done. That'll make everyone think twice before they go and shoot a 2 year old deer. Crossbows should be legal also.

I would like to see the alternative method season not to fall during the week of Christmas. Have it start on the day after Christmas and run for eleven days.

I am ok with all the changes but two. I am not for the only one buck during bow season or only one buck a season (any method). Having two buck tags keeps me in the woods longer during the season. I think you will find if you change to only on buck a season by any means, less people will be buying tags. For example: If I get a buck during bow season I will not buy a gun season tag. You will find many hunters will do this, which means less \$ for MDC. You will force me to choose what season or method I will hunt with.

With the recent news of additional cases of Chronic Wasting Disease, one of which being well outside of the containment area, I truly hope that the biologists elect to reduce the herd this season (and thus the threat of an epidemic), rather than the direction recently chosen to increase the size of the herd. This would mitigate the threat of a total breakdown of Missouri's Deer hunting practices, the value of the venison, and the businesses surrounding this past-time which we love so much. Thank you.

I am ok with shorting the firearm season back to 9 days. Changing the youth season is a great idea. Not okay with shorting the antlerless season, we have a lot of does around here and 3 days doesn't give those that have jobs much time to hunt. The use of cross bows should be allowed.

I agree with all aspects of the proposed changes. I'll comment on the ones I agree with most strongly: 1 archery buck: YES, I know way too many guys who shoot the first decent buck they see knowing they can spend the rest of the season (or the second half) "upgrading" their archery buck. To the "serious" archery hunters who feel slighted, the ones I know hunt multiple states and keeping them to 1 MO buck is a fantastic idea. 9-Day gun season: I assume you intend to cut the last Monday and Tuesdays out. In 25 years of QDM on my farms, these are the ONLY days I have ever seen a trespasser/poacher. I think all the bad guys assume all the landowners have gone home by then and I think of those 2 days as state sponsored poacher days! PLEASE cut out those 2 days! 3-Day antlerless: Good idea to limit the "gun days" without really impacting our opportunities for a quality hunt. We have the best Conservation Dept. in the nation and these proposals reinforce that fact as you are continually looking for ways to improve. Nice work. JW

Getting older I feel the proposed changes are all good I have always been a supporter of MDC. I have been an avid bowhunter for 45 years but now due to medical conditions I have issues at times using a bow. So fifteen years ago I would have opposed crossbows but now I favor them for the simple fact that I will be able to continue to enjoy archery season.

I understand the reasoning of the MDC wanting to lower the amount of deer harvest with the deer herd decreasing in size. Our Biologists know what is necessary. I remember in the late 1940's when Deer Season was 3 days, bucks only. We do not want to have this happen again. But I do not agree with extending the Youth Hunt to 3 days. Many of the deer harvested by 5 and six year children are killed by their fathers. Most 5 and 6 year children are physically unable to mount a firearm to their shoulders. Most modern hunting firearms weigh 7 1/2 to 8 1/2 lbs. It has become a farce. I understand that we need to attract young hunters but I do not think any of these young hunters need to be hunting until they are 12 years old and attend a Hunter Safety Clinic. This would be better safety-wise and stop a lot of these Father's from teaching their children poor sportsmanship. I know not all the Fathers conduct this type of activity but from hearing comments from other hunters, I believe the number is a lot higher than the Commission believes. Thanks to the Commission for all the good works and the opportunity to enjoy all that has been accomplished since the 1940's.

I feel that the deer seasons do not need to be changed other than opening up the conservation areas for the antlerless portion of the season. Or extending the antler portion a few days.

I do not think people should be allowed to use crossbows during archery season! Allowing crossbows will cause a dramatic increase in poaching, and decrease the deer population significantly. Deer population is already too low, and crossbows will just make it easier to kill deer.

First, let me start by saying I believe MDC has always done a great job managing our resources. With all of the suggestions coming to you, I truly hope that some of the ideas I am seeing fall by the wayside as they have little to no merit behind them. For example, I have hunted in other states such as Colorado that utilize draw/lottery systems for in state and out of state residents and it did nothing but erode the hunter base for that state. The reason for that was that type of permit system is cumbersome and not user friendly. People will not use it and will likely just not hunt. That is one thing Missouri has done very well. The Missouri over the counter system promotes hunting because it is an easy permit system. In a time where we continue to see hunter numbers decrease, it would be a mistake to create a complicated draw/lottery system limiting opportunities for the remaining hunters, be they residents or non residents. I have seen several posts complaining about non resident hunters. That seems childish to me as non resident hunters only represent about 5% of all Missouri deer hunters. I am certain the data would support that non resident hunters have minimal impact on Missouri resources and they most likely have family here or are from Missouri anyway. Missouri is not a destination deer hunting state for non resident hunters. It is what it is. I personally hunt private and public land and never see a non resident hunter on public ground and see very few hunters at all. Another consideration regarding non residents that I continue seeing posts on is the fact that non residents own property here. If a person owns property here and pays taxes on it they are likely improving the land and habitat on that land for deer/turkey. This would be another reason I would be against any type of draw/lottery as those non resident landowners benefit the deer/turkey population. They should not be penalized just because they do not live here year round. I also know for a fact that several deer are passed up by non residents that I know, and some of those non residents end up going home without a deer because they were selective. I can't say that for the residents I know as any deer they see, they shoot. If anything should be changed, it should be youth season tags. We all know that the kids under ten are likely not killing the bucks in the pictures. Those are just ways for some parents to get an early season deer by using the kiddos tag. Youth season should be about exposing the kids to hunting. Antlerless only, minimum age of 10 or 12. Checking stations might be helpful if they were utilized instead of telecheck. Add some enforcement help to the deer and turkey seasons. SUMMARY: Leave the permit system alone as an over the counter system for everyone. Reduce tag cost for non residents if they own property in Mo. Require a minimum age of 10-12 for youth season deer hunters to assist in stopping abuse of the youth season. Antlerless only. Bring back checking stations. Deputy agents for deer and turkey season if they have a LE background. Create a short course academy for part time agents. Leave the season where it is if possible.

No crossbows, one antlerless tag per season, get rid of youth season, and start trying to build back the turkey population in southern Missouri. Hunting seasons have declined since 2010 around here and commission don't do a lot around here other than drive up and down the road.

Do not shorten seasons. Do not lessen number of deer taken. Do not take away Urban season. Do allow crossbows for all archery seasons. Deer are my family's main source of meat.

I support the crossbow, shortened rifle season, and youth season expansion. I do not support antler point restrictions in the southern part of the state. The terrain makes it impossible to field judge a deer. I would like to see shotguns allowed during alternative methods to allow those that can't afford new equipment the same opportunities.

I am in favor of reducing the 11 day firearm season down to 9 days. I have enjoyed the benefits of the antler restriction for the past 5 years, have seen and harvested more mature deer, however, I would much rather have the firearm deer season moved back out of the rut much like Kansas does. I am not in favor of reducing the archery buck harvest from two to one. I believe that less than 1/2 percent of all archery hunters harvest a second buck, this is very insignificant of the total buck harvest. Not sure what the end result would be for this sacrifice? I believe it is important to keep hunters in the field, and by allowing a second buck in archery season, this keeps folks interested and still hunting in the late season. I have never killed a second buck during archery season, but have enjoyed going out in late season in pursuit of a good buck. I would likely not hunt in the late season just for a doe. There is value in keeping folks in the field and woods! I don't want to lose this opportunity to harvest a second buck and not spend time out hunting for nor real good reason. Crossbows: Originally I was very much against this, I know many bow-hunters are very much against this idea. I am an avid bowhunter and seldom go firearm hunting (unless its hunting during the firearm season with my bow). I personally believe that it would not have negative effects on the harvest and deer population if this was legalized. I think there are likely more "perceived" problems that actual problems. Maybe it would be more easily accepted by this vocal group of bowhunters, if you legalized it for the late season (after gun season) for a few years, and then have some data to show folks that it is not problematic, then expand it to the entire archery season if it does not cause any negative impacts. This is the "show me" state, Missourians often need to be "shown" something! I am in favor of reducing the antlerless season dates. It's apparent that many counties do not need to be increasing antlerless harvest. The population is dynamic and so should our regulations in order to adaptively manage the herd. It's easy enough to harvest an antlerless deer during the regular season or archery season if one really wants one! I am in favor of moving the second youth season. January season can get pretty cold, and there is less deer activity for young hunters. I say, give the young hunters the best chances to harvest a deer! I'm all for our youth hunts!

I'm in favor of limiting archers to 1 antlered deer. I agree allowing crossbows in archery season would aid in the retention and recruitment of hunters. I like the current timing of the firearms season but would understand moving based on solid scientific information. The changes in the youth portion are great. They need more of a chance to succeed if we're going to keep them hunting. I guess I'm least in favor of the antlerless portion being reduced but I trust the

Department's reasoning. I've been hunting deer long enough to remember buying a tag and hoping to catch a glimpse of a deer, to filling several tags by different methods. Thanks MDC for the work you do managing our wildlife resources.

I think they need to leave the Nov. firearm rifle season the same amount of days to hunt. I think the point restriction should be removed, because where I hunt we have a lot of small bucks that will never get any bigger. I think they should leave the antlerless season the same length and the same time. I think it would be alright to allow crossbows be legal during archery season. I think the number of bucks should stay the same during archery and during rifle seasons.

The archery season should be left like it is. Archery hunting is for the dedicated hunter. Allowing crossbows would put unethical untrained people in the woods taking crack shots. With a bow you have to spend time learning to shoot and making better setups to kill a deer, this training usually creates contact with experienced hunters to gain valuable knowledge on ethics and hunting ability. Simply able to buy a crossbow with a scope that gives many the feeling of having a rifle instead of a bow should not be allowed. 1 buck gun 1 buck bow would be reasonable compromise, leaving the limit with a 4 point restriction state wide would be the most logical. The unlimited antlerless tags were and still are a bad idea, spent more time in the tree stand and with cameras our deer herd would most definitely be considered on the low side. No form of wildlife management that work carter co. Agree with the unlimited tags, this should be stopped.

I think we should leave things the way they are. Hunting with a crossbow is not considered bow hunting to me there is a season for crossbow which is the alternative season.

I think the days should stay the same on firearm and archery season. We should be able to use crossbows. The bucks should stay the same for archery season and rifle season. The point restriction should be taken out. Antlerless season should stay the same amount of days. The antlerless tags should go back the way they were in the past. Non-resident tags should be drawn for and cost higher.

After attending the open house at powder valley and hearing what others had to say I believe that adding crossbows to archery season is still the wrong decision. I heard that most people were older and were having difficulties drawing bows or parents that wanted their kids to have opportunities during archery season. I believe the best solution would be to allow crossbows for those considered youth or over the age of 55, for younger hunters gun season and alternative methods are still there. A rule change to allow crossbows on archery only areas during those seasons I think would also help. The total buck limit should be two. Whether it be a bow before rifle and a rifle kill or a bow both before rifle and after. After the recent news of the spread of CWD I believe the conservation dept. should expand the optional testing program to be statewide not just in the areas that CWD has been found. Knowledge about CWD is important and the more information you can gather the better.

Crossbows I like that but not the 1buck.

I agree with most of the changes except the shorting of rifle season and the dropping the second antler tag for archery

Nov. portion stay some time, but change to 9 days. Do not like the November youth change. Too much deer pressure in Nov. I take my 3 kids during regular season. No with one antlered deer during archery season. I don't know a lot of hunters who shoot two bucks.

I prefer crossbows be handicap only except during alternative season. Non-resident antlerless tag is too low in cost. Also, would like to see a two day early season for muzzle loaders.

I am in support of the departments changes but not sure about shortening the seasons. I have difficulty getting out as it is and a shorter season makes that even more difficult.

Hello- Just a few comments on the proposed changes. PLEASE: 1. Allow crossbows during the firearms season. 2. Shorten the firearms season to 9 days. 3. STOP KILLING THE DOES! The taking of does has been way too liberal. 4. One buck during archery season and one buck during firearms season would be good. Finally, just a comment about hunting in general. It seems to me that way too many seasons have been created for the youth hunters. The conservation department also allows things today that in the old days would never have been allowed, as far as hunting methods, etc. goes. Atali's? A spear to kill a deer? COME ON!

I saw the recent discussion of reducing the season. I am not in favor of this action. It becomes too restrictive of a window to plan the hunting time. I think you should look at reducing available tags versus the available time. I think the same thing may be more valuable on the antlerless portion. 3 days is very restrictive of a window to allow people to schedule during this time.

Non-resident hunters should have to enter a draw for deer hunting privileges. Also, the costs for tags should be comparable to other Midwest states.

I have read the proposed changes to upcoming deer/turkey hunting seasons. I do not see anything that warrants concerns from Missouri hunters. I agree with the recommended Firearms Season changes and I applaud the consideration to allow open use of crossbows as a legal method during archery deer and turkey seasons. I think that has been needed for quite some time. I think this would allow more youth to participate in the archery portions and reduce the number of maimed deer and turkey as a result of inexperienced archers and those that simply lack the necessary physical strength to effectively use a typical compound bow. I think, however, more needs to be done in the area of deer herd and turkey rafters health and habitat management on private lands. I, by no means, believe that it needs to rise to the extent of actions that alter the natural behavior of these animals, but I have witnessed animals that I believe could benefit greatly from limited intervention. This would include efforts to provide access to basic and necessary minerals and to improve the health of these animals. I'm no biologist but I would reason that if livestock owners need to invest in supplements for their animals, it is due, in part, to the lack of these naturally occurring minerals in the soils on their particular tracks of land. I also believe that controlled burning is another way to improve herd and rafter health by improving their habitat. In conclusion, I believe that encouraging landowners to participate in health management is yet another way to improve and conserve our states deer and turkey populations.

I think most of the changes are a good idea but I do have thoughts on a couple of them. I do not like the idea of making crossbows legal during the archery season. I think the current rule of

needing a handicap permit should still remain. Shooting a crossbow is just like a gun with expanded range and not near the challenge as it is to draw a conventional compound bow under pressure. Archery is archery and should remain that way. I think the 1 buck limit during the archery season is ridiculous. The idea is to help the bucks reach maturity. I think the better idea is to impose antler restrictions on the whole state and that would solve the issue of younger bucks being killed. I have lived in Arkansas for 10 years now but before was a Missouri resident and in Arkansas we have a 3 point rule which seems to work really well. Please consider doing 4 point rule in the entire state I think it will make a big difference. I know the MDC is considering raising the cost of non resident permits. I live 4 miles across the line in Arkansas and I spend roughly 650.00 dollars in permits every year because most of my hunting is in Missouri. I would like to see an idea proposed similar to the white river border permit and give those who live within 5 to 10 miles of the border a break on the license fee. I am not suggesting lowering it significantly but a 50 to 75 dollar break would be a big help. I think the MDC does a great job and I hope the changes will not be too drastic and affect me being able to continue to hunt and fish in Missouri. Thanks for all you do.

I attended the meeting at Kirksville last evening and left a couple of comments but failed to include my opinion on the following topic. If the state is really interested in increasing deer numbers, I suggest you look at reducing predator numbers as a starting point. Research indicates that around 65-75% reduction in coyote population per year over a 10 year period is required to affect the overall coyote population. Missouri coyote fur is nearly worthless so another incentive is needed to encourage harvesting coyotes. The state used to pay a \$15 bounty and maybe it's time for that to be re-instated.

Get rid of the early youth season. All too often all this season does is allow older hunters to take advantage of getting an early jump on the season by letting their kid tag along to be present while the older hunter shoots his deer. Too many pictures of extremely young kids who "supposedly" shot a 14 point buck with a magnum deer rifle. Not buying it.

I disagree with the changes of the archery season rules. If the conservation allows the cross bow to be legal during archery season the deer population will decrease significantly. It will make it easier to kill deer and poach deer. If more people have crossbows the poaching will increase. It will be harder to catch poachers because it is quiet without the noise of a gunshot it will be harder to locate poachers.

Keep urban firearm season. Crossbow for anyone great. Youth change good.

I don't think that you should open up crossbow season to everyone. I believe it will hurt our deer herd. As you well know a crossbow is like shooting a 30/30 it may not be as powerful but it can shot around 100yds. I hunt a lot of your conservation areas with a bow and would be worried if there were crossbow hunters in some of those areas. They could mistake me for a deer and bam I'm shot. I don't think most people would do that but still it makes it easier for an accident to happen. Would you let them be used at a place like Labarque Creek? a place like that is already packed with hunters so a little scary to possible ad more hunters and with a crossbow even. I also worry about how much the number of deer being taken will increase. When Illinois added the

crossbow the number of deer killed went up. I think if you want to do it for the youth up to 16 years of age that is great but to let able bodied adults us a crossbow will hurt the deer herd. I also think that accidents may increase. I am not for it at all. It's a big NO.

No crossbows, keep archery bucks at 2, move gun season out of rut to Dec. 3rd, and make out of state people draw lottery for a tag.

I support all proposed changes except the change to the late youth hunting season. Youths get to firearm hunt before other hunters during the early youth season. If the late youth season is moved to the weekend following Thanksgiving, and is extended to 3 days, it will disenfranchise other hunters, as youths will again get to hunt before other hunters - in this instance, alternative methods hunters. IF a second youth season remains (I believe it should be completely abolished due to the disenfranchisement of women, veterans, seniors, and other groups who do not have their own hunting season), it should remain following alternative methods season.

Raise the price for nonresident tags and limit their tags. Venison is a big part of my family's diet. So for a non resident to be able to purchase the same number of tags as I do does not seem fair, being as am also a MO tax payer.

I own property in Adair co and need a place to properly dispose of deer carcasses with CWD getting close

Do not decrease the Firearm season from 11 to 9 days. The small number of deer harvested in those three days is minimal so I feel the added opportunity is more important with little effect on overall harvest. Strongly disagree with expanding and moving the late youth season to Thanksgiving. Upland game hunters have few opportunities between deer season dates and this is a prime time to pursue small game and get youth involved in this activity. I feel the early youth deer season is ample to encourage youth participation, the late season is a bonus and weather, time and participation rates should not be an issue. I also have concerns about youth having additional opportunity to harvest more deer before the alternative methods hunters even get to go afield. I agree with reducing the length of the antlerless portion, it concentrates the harvest. However, I have the same concern that Alt methods hunters should get to go afield before this hunt. In all fairness, giving equal opportunity to all participants should be upheld. I oppose the use of crossbows during archery season, but only for personal reasons. However, I do understand that it will have minimum effect on harvest. I do not support the claims that it will help hunter recruitment, especially youth. I am strongly opposed to limiting archers to one antler deer during the season. I see the small number of archers taking a second buck insignificant to herd management. An alternative is to limit the second buck to a 4 point regulation or other rule to limit take of younger bucks. If a regulation is needed to protect bucks then the firearms portion should be moved out of the rut period not penalize archers. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

I don't understand how limiting the amount of antler deer with archery methods will benefit the herd. What is the percentage of archery hunters that harvest 2 bucks? It will take away of some of the excitement that I have. Why has this been considered?

I am in agreement with the proposed changes except the one antlered deer during bow season, I would like to see it stay at two. On another subject I don't think out of state people should be allowed to apply for managed hunts unless there are openings not filled for a particular hunt by residents.

I think the archery season regulations in regards to method ad bag limit should remain the same as what is currently being practiced. Crossbow for handicapped ONLY, and one buck before and one buck after gun season. Additionally, move gun season out of the middle of the rut like other states that have a successful QDM.

I think the changes look good. I like the shortened antlerless season, and would also shorten the "alternative" black powder season. The one buck for archery and gun season should be adopted, along with one doe for archery. Could also move archery start back to October 1. With the proposed changes to archery, then crossbows are not much of an issue.

As an avid archery hunter I like the regulations as they are. I don't support using crossbows and don't support changing the buck limit.

I am against the cross bow addition to archery season. The part of the state I live can't withstand the increased harvest of deer that crossbow would cause. Make a special season for crossbow or make it only county to county not state wide.

I feel like everything you are considering is good except the **CROSSBOWS DURING BOW SEASON**. There is so much poaching that goes on, all I believe it would do is make it so much easier for them. I believe there is plenty of ways to kill a deer now without doing that. **BUT** one thing I don't understand, why do we allow people to run coyotes with dogs during rifle or muzzle season when they have such a long season? **THANK YOU**

Like most suggested changes. Not in favor of limiting (simplifying) reg's on conservation lands. Too many rules (yes). The government already has too many rules concerning firearms. Do not over reach your capabilities and expand your expertise. Hunting and fishing should be your **PRIMARY BUSINESS**. Thanks.

As a lifelong deer hunter and a professional wildlife biologist, I would like to commend the department on the proposed changes to the deer seasons. MDC has a long history of using sound science and research to make informed/non-biased decisions when managing the states wildlife populations. I respect and agree with decisions of the professionals that have dedicated their career to making Missouri one of the best deer hunting states in the nation. I especially support the legalization of crossbows as an archery method. This method is very attractive to those of us with children that are being introduced into the world of deer hunting. It is important for the hunting tradition to continue and our children are the key. Increased opportunity for children is paramount. The Missouri Department of conservation has done an outstanding job in managing the public resource and the proposed regulation changes should be fully supported by all.

I watched and read about the proposed Deer Regulation changes and would like to comment 2 topics. Reducing the season lengths and allowing crossbows in archery season. MDC wants to reduce the firearm deer season and the antlerless portion of the deer season to reduce the number

of doe taken during the season but in the same breath you want to make crossbows legal and reduce the amount of bucks archery hunters can take from 2 to 1. The MDC are making proposals that contradict each other. I agree with the shorting the firearm season but the addition of crossbows in the archery season will result in a big increase in the number of hunters and doe taken during archery season because of the one buck limit and the increase in hunters that will take doe instead of another buck. More doe being taken will decrease the doe population and do opposite of shorting firearms season. You can't have it both ways!

Sirs, I concur with the proposed changes to firearms season. I concur with the proposed changes to archery season, especially adding crossbow as a legal method. I concur with proposed changes for Conservation Areas. Regards, M.L.H.

I think it is high time to reduce the number of deer you are allowed to kill. A shorter doe season is a very good idea that I think should have been done sooner. I am also for a one antlerless deer permit limit for now to let the deer herd recover. I think that cross bows during archery season is OK but that one buck and one doe is the limit. As for the urban areas I don't know what to tell you about them, just bow hunt them I guess. I hate to hear about the new CWD cases you found. I have some ground in Monroe county that I hunt and Macon county is right next door. Please do everything possible to stop or control this disease. I am aware that is not an easy task. Yours Truly, K.B.O.

The proposed changes sound great. The increased opportunity created by allowing crossbows would be great. I feel that the increased accuracy from crossbows will cut down on the number of deer that are hit poorly and never recovered.

Totally against the crossbow. Leave regulation the same for antlered deer during bow season.

No crossbow. Regulation stay same for antlered deer during bow season.

No crossbow. No change in regulation for antlered deer during bow season.

No changes for antlered deer during bow season. No crossbow.

Move firearms season later, make the four point antler system state wide.

I would like to see the Spring Turkey hunt times increase to 1/2 hour after sunset.

Missouri has some of the best hunter numbers of the states. I feel shortening the number of days may limit opportunity.

I agree with the changes that you are proposing except for the reduction of 1 buck with archery equipment. It's not easy to get 1 buck with a bow so I don't see the reason for this.

I urge you to include crossbow use in all archery seasons. As a handicapped hunter, I would love to come to Missouri to hunt deer and turkey and I'm certain many others would too. Why not make Missouri a complete sportsman's paradise and include this primitive weapon that has been in use for hundreds of years. Thank you.

I really like the idea of a one buck limit like Kentucky. One buck no matter how many different weapon types a hunter uses. We wouldn't need an antler restriction then. Just allowed one buck! I hunt with bow and gun equally. I don't see the need to limit an archer on doe harvest! Move the early youth season to no later than mid-October, it's too close to the rut, now! Open the

alternative season for all of December like Nebraska. Nudge the firearms season back a week later. We will see more mature bucks survive. Like Kansas and Iowa. Only one doe harvest with firearms!

MDC knows what they should do! It's just that they won't do it! First of all since everything is about the money, then double the cost of tags and license! I'd rather see double the cost and half the hunters! It has gotten out of hand with all the hunters that are around. We had neighbors this past season that has way too many hunters! They were running draws and shot and killed another hunter! 80 percent of hunters in Northern parts of Missouri are from south of I-70 and lease small tracts and pile too many hunters all over it! This crap about cutting 2 days off the rifle season is A JOKE! That won't change a thing! Nobody even hunts those 2 days anyways! Move the rifle season to December 1st. If MDC would manage ways to grow bigger bucks by adjusting the seasons and number of hunters, then Missouri would be known as the best in the Midwest! If we have the big bucks it doesn't matter what prices of tags are. The hunters will pay! So many hunters wants to hunt where there are chances of killing trophy big bucks! Example, you see and hear everyone going to Iowa, Kansas, and Illinois. Reason being is because they want to kill big deer! It's funny how the surrounding states have higher priced tags and everyone still pays to go there! If MDC wants to offer something different and draw more hunters for the money, then open the archery season on September 1st where this will allow hunters to harvest a velvet buck! Many hunters out there are looking for that opportunity for velvet bucks! Believe me because I been in the hunting industry for a long time and deal with a lot of Non Resident hunters every year! Next, I am all about kids hunting! But I am not for them having the best time frame to hunt! Nothing aggravates me off more, of hearing a kid killing all these big bucks for their first deer! All this is doing is ruining the kids! They then think it's too easy and have no goals to look forward to in years to come. They won't understand and appreciate what they got! Also, this allows dads to kill them also! You can give the kids a whole week! Just not during the best rut times! Also MDC over the past 10 years always complained about all the doe's. Make the 6-10 yr old kids shoot doe's. 11-15 can shoot bucks! Funny that I never got the chance to hunt youth seasons and couldn't even hunt until I was 11. Please make a difference instead of this little crappy changes! Let's be known as the best in the midwest instead of the joke of the midwest!

Move the opening rifle to December 1st off prime rut with youth hunt right after. Move archery up to Sept. 1st so that we get a shot at velvet bucks. Not a fan of crossbows for anyone. Medical exemption or over 60. Too easy. Do not need as much skill to shoot a crossbow. Like your idea of 1 buck archery and 1 buck firearm.

I am against including crossbows as a legal weapon for archery season. They are already legal for the alternative methods season. Crossbows are not archery equipment. Any animal taken with a crossbow is not included in Pope and Young records. A crossbow is not allowed by the National Field Archery Assn. It is not allowed by the American Archery Assn. It is not allowed by FITA. It is not a bow and arrow. I would rather see a crossbow permit issued separate from archery permit. If the seasons ran at the same time, that's OK. I think this would allow the DNR to monitor the impact of cross bows on the deer herd without it impacting archery use on the deer

herd. Lastly, I haven't seen this issue being raised by crossbow hunting organizations only by crossbow manufacturers who want to sell more crossbows at the expense of hard earned archery seasons. - Thank you.

I thought we were trying to reach a 1 - 1 ratio, bucks to does with a 4 point on one side restriction. It appears now with a three day doe season and a 4 point restriction we are back to the idea that every buck needs a harem. I do not like it. I feel you are catering to the trophy hunters and outfitters. The people that like to eat venison are not being considered.

Don't penalize our bow hunters by reducing antlered deer harvest limit to one per season and add crossbow as legal method. Makes no sense. If you think you must limit antlered deer harvest to one then limit Spring Turkey harvest to one per year.

Love the crossbow being added, will be great for kids. Would love to see more CA made into bow only areas. If doe harvest needs to be limited, do away with antlerless season.

Crossbows ruling should stay as the current rules are today, all other proposed changes we can live with.

I think the proposals for change are good with one exception, the use of crossbows. I am not in favor of crossbows being legal for the entire archery season. Perhaps a crossbow season similar to the muzzle loader season can be considered instead. I feel that crossbows will raise the harvest number of both deer and turkey dramatically, increase the number of wounded and lost game animals and perhaps raise the number of hunters in the field to a much higher level in some areas during the prime time of archery season. I know for a fact that some people with low hunting ethics will take advantage of a crossbow season, especially a long season. I'm in favor for the use of crossbows for those with a disability just as we have now. On the subject of non resident fees: I have a non resident friend with two sons that owns land near me and cannot afford to hunt or bring all three each year so they skip years or alternate on who can come back. They like to hunt the archery season one week prior to firearms then the first 3 days of firearms. It can cost them 1350.00 dollars for license fees for 10 days of hunting plus the travel cost for 1200 miles, cost while they are in Missouri and they already own 160 acres which has a cost just to maintain for wildlife making the cost prohibitive for them all to come back each year. Perhaps if the non resident fees, even just archery tags, were reduced, they would be more likely to all enjoy the fall deer season and would actually bring more money to our state. Thanks for reading, S.F.

I disagree with allowing crossbows to be used in the Archery portion of our deer season. I believe the more a person (our youth especially) has to work for something the more they will appreciate it. I feel our youth need to put some effort into earning the privilege to hunt deer with archery equipment. My son put forth that effort and killed his first deer with a recurve at the age of 12yrs. A young person can participate if they are willing to put forth some effort. We are making things in life way too easy in too many areas of life for both young and old. Make people earn the privilege to hunt in our Archery season. I am from Okla. where crossbows are now legal in archery season. There are a number of children and women who either can't physically load their crossbow or don't know enough about it to load it, shooting at deer. This has resulted in more wounded and lost deer. I feel we are sending the wrong message to our youth when we

allow them to go afield without having earned the privilege to be there and to know their equipment and how to use it well enough to make an ethical shot on a deer. I thank you for the opportunity to comment, D.J.L.

I agree with the proposed changes, both firearm and archery, with the following exceptions. If you shorten the Antlerless Firearms portion I would like to see the Alternative Methods season move up a week so that it isn't running over the December holiday week and weekends. I see no reason, with the exception of crop damage, to allow more than two harvested deer a season for either firearms or archery portions. I HIGHLY recommend moving back to a "physical" harvest check-station system. I strongly suspect there are violations using the Tele-Check system, which make it extremely difficult to verify without valid informant information of violations.

I have long wondered why crossbows were not allowed during the archery season. I was very pleased to see this proposal. I just hope that it gets through.

I am in favor of these changes, especially shortening of seasons. The one exception I see is only allowing one antlered deer during archery season.

NO limit on deer.

Crossbows should be allowed during Archery season. 2 buck limit isn't an issue as it is harder to get a buck the later the season goes. Give the Muzzle loader hunter more time. Your pistol hunters and spear thrower can stay as set over Christmas, but start the Muzzle loader a week earlier.

I strongly support allowing crossbows during archery season. I disagree with limit of 1 antlered deer during archery season. Allowing 2 bucks gives a person the opportunity to manage their herd by harvesting undesirable bucks. One other change I would support is starting archery season September 1st, this would give us an opportunity to take a velvet buck. All other changes I support.

In most of Missouri, the deer population is declining. In North Central MO where I have 300 acres I manage for deer hunting there has been a drastic reduction in the size of the deer herd in the last few years. The changes to number of bonus firearms tags introduced last season produced no significant effect since most hunters don't take more than one doe anyway. In fact, the deer kill increased last season from the previous, on an already diminished population. We're going in the wrong direction. I'm in favor of the changes proposed this time to reduce the number of deer (particularly does) taken, but I think MDC is still nibbling on the ends with these new rules and won't have any significant effect. MDC should do more to protect does, and maybe should consider protecting antlerless deer for a few years until the population increases to where it belongs. For this reason I am opposed to expanding the youth season, we need to teach the youth rules of conservation as well, and that everyone must reduce their expectations so that we can once again enjoy the deer herd we should have. MDC has indicated the population in North Central MO is below the desired goal, but the proposed changes will not have any significant effect. Rather than dancing around the problem, it's time to be more drastic in correcting the problem. We do not allow killing of antlerless deer on our farm, but we only control 300 acres. Our neighbors are of the opinion that if "its brown its down", quality deer management is not a

priority for them. They take their guidance from what MDC allows as legal. So if MDC rules communicates that the herd is fine, we only need small changes, then they will not respond with the necessary changes to restore the population to what is targeted by MDC. In summary, I support all the proposed changes except the expansion of the youth season. This season should be reduced and or eliminated. The existing archery and firearms season provides plenty of family/youth hunting time as it is. I also feel more drastic deer management rules need to be adopted, including not allowing antlerless kills for a few years.

From the sounds of it Missouri is afraid of any hunters actually taking home some meat to put in the freezer. It's hard enough for most working people to find time to get out and participate in the season as it is now. Being a working stiff makes it hard to pattern deer in the off season and then making the season shorter just makes it more difficult to be successful. I along with many other working stiff's need all the time we can get to fill our measly one deer tag. And \$225 for a 9 day hunt for a nonresident tag is just outrageous. THIS SUCKS!

I'm OK with all the changes except Archery. I'm not in favor of crossbows in the Archery Season, period. Also why take away one antlered deer?

I am a bow hunter and have been since 1972. There were few bow hunters when I began mainly due to the challenge of having to use a long or recurve bow. When the (mechanically enhanced) compounds were introduced the number of bow hunters increased rapidly and bow hunting became a popular sport. As I have aged I have taken advantage of both. Due to failing vision I began using a crossbow several years ago (I could mount a rifle scope on the bow). Now I rarely wound deer which is very important to me. I reluctantly support making crossbows legal during the archery season. I am concerned that the youth, who are healthy enough to use a compound or recurve, will never experience the joy and challenge of harvesting a deer with a recurve or compound. I am also reluctant to support the one buck proposal for archery hunters. I have used one of my two permits to harvest old or crippled bucks from the population. Last year I took a buck out that had a severe injury to his eye. He was not even trying to breed does anymore. This year I took out an old buck that was obviously on his way out. Both bucks provided me with meat but they had no potential for ever growing a rack. I support all the other proposed changes without any reservations. By the way, I am surprised, since you believe that reducing archery harvest by one buck will help grow bigger bucks, that you haven't addressed the issue of harvesting button bucks. Archery hunters, since they are generally very close to the deer they harvest, can most always tell a button buck from a doe fawn. I bet your records will show that there are almost if not more button bucks harvested than antlered bucks. If we are concerned that much about archers harvesting and extra antlered deer it seems odd that we do not try to limit the number of button bucks taken. I guess this will be something for future generations to address. I support all the other proposed changes to the regulations. Keep up the good work. We have been blessed by an abundance of deer here in Missouri and I am glad that we have an organization that watches over them.

With the intent of raising the lowering deer population, I agree with your listed changes. I do believe you should limit the youth hunt rather than expanding it. I would prefer to place more limits on harvesting does, this would be the quickest way to increase the population.

I disagree with the changes to archery permits for a few reasons, first I hunt mostly on MDC ground and most of the land I hunt has restrictions on the use of antlerless permits so reducing the number of permits would reduce my hunting by half effectively. Also I wonder how many people fill both any deer permits, I have a hard time believing that the success rate is very high for archery, will reducing the number if any deer permits really lower the harvest as much as the other proposed changes. I have an idea for a change to the permits that may be beneficial to the deer herd, I often see an abundance of scrub bucks since the antler point restrictions, perhaps rather than eliminating the second any deer permit allow bow hunters one buck that meets the antler point restriction and another buck that does not have to meet the antler restrictions to lower the amount of small scrub bucks that do not have the ability to become large "trophy" bucks. (Any buck, or doe for that matter with a bow is a trophy in my eyes) This would help you regulate the small buck population if there are not many youth hunters in the area, by giving the archer the choice how to use their tag you allow more local regulation of the population as well, I personally would not pass on a scrub buck with a bow because of how many I see and also the challenge of harvesting a deer with a bow. I would really like to see this come up for discussion soon or perhaps just let me know what the department thinks about the proposal. Thank you.

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Move gun season back one week, YES. Move late youth season with Thanksgiving, YES. Antlerless three days, YES. Urban zone elimination, YES. Crossbows in archery season, H--L NO! Take antlered buck away from archery, H--L NO! By adding crossbows to the archery season you will be forced to eliminate a buck tag since you just legalized silent, short range

rifles. I am NOT against crossbows. They have a season in Missouri and it's NOT during the archery portion.

I believe that crossbows should only be legal during archery seasons for older/youth/disabled hunters. I came from AR where crossbows are legal for archery. It was a tool used by poachers in particular road hunters. It is very easy to stick todays crossbows out the window of a vehicle. If the goal is to involve younger hunters then legalize for only the target group not the whole population. I think the current limit of two antlered deer is perfect but I would like to see antler restrictions statewide with the current exceptions. Firearms regulations I am in favor of the changes.

I owned a gun and archery shop for 11 years and was one of the few that worked on crossbows, so I am very familiar with their capabilities and limitations. Most people who want the use of one feels it extends their range which is false which will lead to more wounded deer. Taking away one antlered deer from bowhunters will have an effect on the deer population due to the hunters who have harvested an early season buck is less likely to hunt late season. Give hunters two antlered deer for the season taken with any method and keep the antler restriction.

I disagree with the proposed change for the 2016 deer season regarding crossbows. The rationale of adding crossbows to attract younger and older hunters is preposterous and not in line with the other goal of limiting deer harvests. There are more bow hunters young and old than ever in the state. My 5 and 6 year old are some of them. Leave crossbows as an alternative measure, and a method for folks with a doctor's note. M.R.R.

BTW this comments section is incredibly hard to find on your web site! And gauging an entire states opinion on a mere 4,000 comments is irresponsible.

No to Crossbow. No to only one antlered deer.

N/A.

Why expand the late youth season? Why have it at all? I personally am not a fan of the youth season at all. I say this knowing that I have a seven year old son who wants to hunt. We want to get these kids interested but I refuse to take my kid out during the middle of the rut and just let him show up and shoot something. I have seen this first hand with other kids who are now later in their teens. They take their video games with them and sit in a nice heated enclosed deer stand over a pile of corn. I think this spoils them. I spent countless hours with my father at that age bowhunting. Learning to be quiet and the virtue of patience. We scouted and watched deer all the time. This gave me a chance to appreciate the outdoors and become a better hunter learning deer activity. I didn't just climb into a blind and shoot the first thing that came by. Where I hunt the average youth hunter spends less than a day hunting. No scouting. Their parents just pop up a blind and pour out a couple bags of corn 20 yards away. They shoot the first thing that comes by. They have no clue what hunting is. A portion of the time the kid is just there to tag anyway. I can speak again from experience. My nephew is 7 and killed his first buck during the youth season. He wanted to keep hunting but his parents wouldn't take him so we got him a bonus tag and I took him. I wanted to show him there was more to it. No snack coolers allowed, no video games or books. He wasn't just going to show up. No laying down and taking a nap. Needless to say he

had a new appreciation for hunting. Basically I would be in favor of getting rid of the special youth seasons. Let them hunt during the regular firearms season like I did. Also, you need to seriously consider raising the minimum age. Personally, I don't think there needs to be a specific doe season at all. I would love to see this limited going forward to increase the deer herd. When I was little you had to apply for a doe tag. Later you could get one bonus. Now its endless doe tags. Crossbows during bow season are a joke. I know you think you will limit archery bucks to one and this will offset but it won't. I can tell you I personally know of several people who would buy a crossbow to hunt. If you spend the money they can be deadly accurate to near 100 yards. More deadly than older blackpowder and slug guns. You will see an explosion of new "archery" hunters and revenue from the purchase of tags. I would be open to only one buck for archery but would like to be able to still use my firearm buck tag, if not filled, for archery. This would be much like being able to fill it during alternative season with a muzzleloader.

I like what I see proposed as changes to the deer regulations. I do think that one buck during archery season is good and I especially like letting the crossbow be used during archery season. This will help older hunters hunt for more years.

I agree with all the changes except allowing crossbows during archery seasons. While it will increase archery tag sales, it goes against the other changes which alleviate pressure on cervids. I think it will add pressure and also increase deer wounded and lost because a crossbow is simpler to use than a bow so many non-archers may see it as an easy way to extend their season. These non-archers may be ignorant to the fact that desired impact areas for lethal shots are different with archery equipment. I also think it will increase the number of mature bucks killed before they can breed. This will negatively affect populations that Missourians already feel are "too low".

1) I hunt Cooper County. I am seeing a lot more does. I think 2 does should be allowed during the Firearm season. 2) You need to establish a program where volunteers can check hunting licenses. I understand it's a liability issue. However, you could issue policies say for \$50K or state that volunteers have No Death Benefits while volunteering for MDC. I am seeing hunters take does in Davisdale during Rife Season. I saw a deer get hit (nice buck) south of Midway. I called and the Warden was 2 counties away. 3) CWD - This needs to be addressed. Game Farms / Big-Game Hunting Preserves should be required to test for CWD. Also, these types of facilities should be limited, i/e , no new facilities.

In regard to Season dates: I feel that it would be a good idea to move firearms deer season one week later to move the season out of the main part of the rut. In regard to allowing crossbows to be used during all of bow season: I believe that this would be a bad idea. First I think the proposal is industry driven and not driven by the citizens of the state. Crossbow sales would rise dramatically in the state if this proposal was approved. Bow season should be just that, and only traditional or compound bows should be allowed. The reason that bow season is so long is because of the difficulty and challenges associated with harvesting an animal with these types of weapons. Crossbows are as lethal as some firearms and capable of harvesting deer and turkey and much longer distances than traditional and compound bows. Allowing crossbows during

bow season would significantly increase the number of hunters in the woods. I feel this would not only negatively affect the experience for bow hunters, but will also negatively affect firearms season as well, by putting much more pressure on the deer before firearms season. Also, by have considerably more hunters in the woods during the early portion of bow season, especially during pre-rut and the rut, with crossbows, will noticeably increase the number of mature bucks and mature gobblers being harvested. Keep bow season bow only and continue to allow crossbows to be used by those not physically able to use bows and during alternative season. Maybe alternatives season should occur prior to firearms season. In regard to non-resident permit cost: The cost of permits for non-residents should be at least as much as adjoining states charge Missouri residents, Kansas \$419.00, Ia. \$551.00, Ill. \$411.00 archery and \$341 for firearms. The other state adjoining MO are less, but those states don't near as much to offer in the way of deer hunting. In regard to youth season and antlerless season: They should be after firearms deer season, regardless of the firearms season dates, but should allow for several weeks between those seasons and alternative season.

Allowing crossbows, good thing. Reducing antlered harvest, bad thing. That's all I got to say about that!

I started hunting 40 years ago when you only got one tag and hunt 7 years before seeing a deer in gun or bow range people have forgotten how hard was and I have seen a lot of changes, losing the chance to kill a second buck is the worst thing you have every done one thing I want to know is what percent of the bow hunter kill two bucks? Your web site said that you sold 200,000 bow tags and only 50,000 deer were killed with a bow I know that some hunter killed more than one so that is why I wanted to know the percent of bow hunters killed two bucks, it is so little that it would not hurt to leave it alone. You are doing this because you know that a crossbow gives a person an advantage in killing deer. I know, I have one and have had a permit to use it because of a shoulder injured this is like using a high power rifle in the alternative season. I think that making money is what you are after so I think you should make a season for crossbows. You got one for everything else. If you can't learn to bow hunt then stay with a gun. With CWD out, and your web site said that bucks carry it, then it makes no sense to do away with the second buck with a new case in Cole county. I want to know if the cost of the tag will go down by 7:00 dollars, that is what a second tag costs, or are you going to rip us off? I hope to hear from you. D.

I agree, deer herd numbers are down and something needs to change. It should start with limiting the number of doe tags available. I agree with all the proposed changes; except, I DO NOT AGREE WITH ALLOWING CROSSBOWS DURING ARCHERY SEASON. This will negate efforts to increase the deer herd. There will be more hunters in the woods during archery season and more deer will be taken (or injured) due to the ability to take farther shots. I also think there will be less mature bucks around during rifle season as more will be shot during archery season. I enjoy bow hunting so much because the deer are relatively not pressured during the early season. Please reconsider allowing crossbows. With more pressure on the wildlife during bow season, I don't believe I would bow hunt as often. Modern compound bows are enough of an advantage. Again, all other proposed ideas are great.

I disagree with the changes to archery permits for a few reasons. First, I hunt mostly on MDC ground and most of the land I hunt has restrictions on the use of antlerless permits so reducing the number of permits would reduce my hunting by half effectively. Also, I wonder how many people fill both any deer permits? I have a hard time believing that the success rate is very high for archery. Will reducing the number if any deer permits really lower the harvest as much as the other proposed changes? I have an idea for a change to the permits that may be beneficial to the deer herd. I often see an abundance of scrub bucks since the antler point restrictions, perhaps rather than eliminating the second any deer permit, allow bow hunters one buck that meets the antler point restriction and another buck that does not have to meet the antler restrictions to lower the amount of small scrub bucks that do not have the ability to become large "trophy" bucks. (Any buck, or doe for that matter with a bow is a trophy in my eyes) This would help you regulate the small buck population, if there are not many youth hunters in the area, by giving the archer the choice how to use their tag you allow more local regulation of the population as well. I personally would not pass on a scrub buck with a bow because of how many I see and also the challenge of harvesting a deer with a bow. I would really like to see this come up for discussion soon or perhaps just let me know what the department thinks about the proposal. Thank you.

1. I agree with the reduction in the length of the firearms seasons to 9 days. 2. I agree with the 3 day youth portion to the Friday after Thanksgiving. 3. I agree with reducing the doe portion of firearms. I have seen a reduction in the herd and this would increase the herd overall. 4. I agree with reducing the urban firearms. MDC should do everything to encourage bowhunting and other alternative methods in the urban areas to reduce the deer herd. 5. I agree with allowing crossbows during archery season. I mainly bow hunt and believe crossbows would not give that much more of an advantage. As I get older it would be a good option that I might enjoy. 6. I do not agree about reducing the archery buck limit to 1 buck. If I (and most bow hunters) get a buck in the early part of the season, they would only kill the second buck if bigger than the first and a real "wall hanger". I don't think the second buck taken significantly increases the harvest. 7. I agree to simplify conservation area regs.

I do not support limiting archery hunters to one buck. I do not believe the number of archers who actually do harvest two bucks to be statistically relevant. Having two any deer permits increases hunting trips throughout the season, particularly after firearms season. It keeps people going, whether they actually get another buck or not. This regulation would decrease hunter opportunity, without significantly impacting the overall antlered deer harvest. I do support all other proposed regulation changes.

I am against crossbow use during the archery season unless you are physically handicapped! The archery kill will go up dramatically if this is allowed. You eliminate all the opportunity for missed shots, a crossbow is like shooting a rifle. You will be making the other proposed changes to lessen the deer kill pointless because the gain of the archery kill will probably double! Crossbows would take over compounds like compounds took over recurves and long bows. Kids beginning archery will use crossbows not compounds! Remember, man made the elk, bear, wolf and cougar extinct in Missouri! Let's not do the same to the Whitetail Deer. Protect the herd and

allow bucks to reach maturity with continued antler point restrictions and less tags! I have not seen a deer over 2.5 years old in over 5 years and I've hunted in 5 counties during that time. And I spend probably 30 days in a tree so that's discouraging! Don't let the general hunting population decide this. Deer numbers are down and will fall dramatically if crossbows are allowed! Stop the decline and make changes to give the herd a chance to stabilize.

Please do not allow crossbows as legal weapons during archery season. Bow hunting takes dedication and practice to become proficient. Anyone can buy a crossbow and attempt to shoot a deer or turkey with it. We have rifle season for those folks.

Starting a couple of weeks ago I began receiving information about the proposed changes to deer hunting regulations. I have tried to give thought to what I want to share with you about the proposals. I know that many hunters will disagree with my views and comments. Since I have the chance to share them I should take advantage of this opportunity. You may find that I at times may have views that conflict with each other so that is why I have listed my first view below as # 1. First, let me say that deer management is a very delicate balancing act. On one side are the hunters saying that there are not enough deer (I think this means not enough antlered bucks). On the opposite side are the home owners who cannot have any outdoor plants due to too many deer. I was at a vegetable gardening meeting this morning (3/7) and several asked about how to control the deer. Insurance companies pay out large sums for damage done by deer/car accidents (I have had 3 of these myself over the years). Second is the fact a very large group of hunters in Mo. are antler hunters only. Thus, the doe population is not hunted enough to control the rapid growth of the overall deer herd. Third, I was very disappointed when the 4 point restriction was put in place. My belief is that if it is a deer than it is ripe for a bullet or arrow or whatever is legal under the current methods to take deer. I have heard many farmers/hunters talk about the poor quality of bucks with abnormal antlers (old bucks with just spikes seen year after year) that should be taken out of the herd but due to the 4 point restriction are illegal to take thus repeating the terrible traits for years to come. Fourth, right or wrong, I believe that money has too much influence on the setting of rules and regulations. There must be a balance of regulations so we are not back to the pre-conservation department methods. Need I say, BALANCE is a very difficult thing. Fifth, I want to refer back to # 2 & # 3. I am not a scientist so my thoughts may be wrong, but here they are. Those of us who hunt are to blame for the current deer problem in our wonderful state. The overabundance of deer would not occur if ALL hunters would take both does and bucks and not JUST bucks only. Because we as hunters do not reduce the overall herd size and ratio, nature will balance it itself with events that we have seen in the past couple of years. Sixth, when I tell people I meet that I enjoy deer hunting (and this applies to squirrels also) they begin to tell me how many deer there are where they live and say I should come hunt there. When I ask about where they live, 99% of the time they live inside an incorporated city limits. Those outside city limits quickly let me know that I cannot hunt on their property. Well so much for helping reduce the population there! I had a lady where I used to work that wanted me to come hunt deer on her 12 acres but because the city rules only allowed hunting on 15 or more acres I could not help her. And her mother had another 12 acres joining

her property and the city told them deer hunting was not allowed on the 24 acres because there were 2 owners. A few weeks ago I was in south Liberty on a Friday evening just before a weather front moved in and I counted almost 40 deer in the soybean fields in about 3/4 mile of roadway. Last, and this one will hurt, you are a government based agency and cannot move fast enough to properly manage things and are controlled by too many outside agencies/people with money and power. In the last 2 weeks I have had as many as 9 deer in 1 photo on my very dead food plot. IF 5 of these are does and they have 1.5 fawn among them than there will be a group of 15 total for this hunting year. If this is doubled for the next year than there will be 30 in the herd. If the number of antlerless deer tag are restricted than we are looking at a very large increase in the deer herd. In my view, this will lead to more adjustments via natures reduction of the deer herd. In my view:

The some of these regulations should be in place for 2015-16 and others totally scraped. Do not change the length of the November portion. Many does will have twins this year than their offspring will usually have 1 their 1st year and so the deer herd will be back to what I view as expanded to much for a proper balance. Agree with the lengthening and move of the youth firearms portion. We need to recruit more young hunters (even though I cannot get my grandsons away from the computer games!) Do not change the antlerless portion, in fact to balance the herd, encourage doe harvest instead our season being just for the antler hunters. I can see eliminating the urban season because of the rules that cities put in place (#6 above). Crossbows should have been allowed years ago. Again, anything to encourage young hunters, senior hunters who want to hunt in the archery portion AND increase the doe harvest. Reducing the antlered harvest from 2 to 1 is not needed. What is needed is to remove the 4 point restriction. As you can tell, I like to harvest bucks with racks but it is not my primary goal. Non-resident fees comment: I know that this is not true of all out of state hunters but I was told about a group of out of state hunters who were driving the back roads looking for places to hunt and did not care about who owned the property or whether the owner was hunting it himself. They even lied about having permission to hunt a CPR field and they were talking to the land owner! Since I have no desire to hunt outside the state of Missouri, I do not have thoughts either way about the fees. Those like the above give a bad image for all out of state hunters but if the out of state hunters would help maintain a BALANCED herd and not just come here to kill BIG ANTLERED BUCKS than they should be allowed to come at a reasonable rate. As I stated at the beginning of these comments, this is a very delicate balance problem. A.B.

I think the 4 point rule should be implemented statewide with an exception for youth permits. I am a resident, but feel we should support those who prefer to purchase lands in Missouri for recreation by allowing non-resident landowners to purchase permits at resident prices or only slightly higher. The state benefits from these people paying land taxes, not to mention the money they will spend while in the state. The number of acres owned to qualify for this should be in the 10-20 acre range. I'm sure there are many people who own 40 acre tracts and come to Missouri to hunt them but have to pay non-resident permit fees.

Please leave season length the same. I enjoy the last four days of the season so much! It goes so well with Thanksgiving. I am getting older and don't have nearly as many of years to hunt as I would like to have!

I support the changes in the archery methods. I do not, however, support the shorting of the November season. I also don't support limiting conservation areas on the means of hunting for the reason many Missouri residents have no other places to hunt but public grounds, and limiting the means of hunting very well may turn committed hunts off of hunting altogether.

I would like to see rifle season moved out of the rut. Start rifle season Dec 1. Go to a one buck limit for the entire deer season and go from over the counter tags to a non resident draw system and limit the number of tags issued to non residents by region and that regions specific needs and ability to support hunting pressure. I have no doubt if Mo would adopt a deer management practice, such as Iowa, then Mo would soon become the single most sought after state to hunt deer in the U.S. If MDC would just try these practices in the northern tier of the state I know the results would be astonishing. It's funny everyone I hunt with and meet in northern Mo feels this way but it seems no one's voice is ever heard. I'm sorry but the recent changes MDC is proposing will not do one single thing to help grow mature deer.

End the 4 point rule! By your own admission it is the young bucks that wander, so what is to stop a deer with CWD from crossing state lines into Missouri? CWD is spreading out of Colorado in the wild deer population. Also, the general public does not approve of trophy hunting. But your research of public opinion stated that people approve of hunting deer for meat.

I support using crossbows during archery season.

I feel if the crossbow is added to archery season that it will take even more of the tradition and the time and dedication archers devote to try and master the recurve or compound bow away! The crossbow hunter would be taken trophies away with half the effort. I do not think a two week season for crossbow after firearms season would be a bad idea. I also would not object if antlered deer were not harvested after Dec.15 due to their antlers starting to weakening at their bases. I have witnessed shedding of antlers in Dec. Thanks L.

1. Standardizing public area rules. I recommend very careful consideration be given to the potential impact of adopting liberal harvest rules for some conservation areas. I hunt deer in Pennsylvania and experienced the impact of more liberal harvest rules on hunting quality and participation over the past 15 years. In the early 2000's rules were changed from bucks only followed by an antlerless season to any deer all season with an antler point restriction. In a few years, the number of deer was greatly reduced on the State Gamelands (equivalent to Conservation Areas). Hunters on public land had greatly enjoyed seeing many deer during a day afield before the rule changes. After only a few years with the new rules, one was lucky to see a few deer a day. The number of hunters decreased drastically, the number of deer sighted per day decreased dramatically and the buck sightings were few and far between. A few years ago, the regulations were changed to have 5 days of bucks-only before the any-deer season. In spite of the new rules, the number of hunters on the public land where I hunt has never recovered and the deer populations seem to be only slowly recovering. Bottom line is the quality of the hunt for

those few who continue to hunt public land was reduced drastically. I could see this easily happening at some of the more popular Conservation Areas if harvest rules are liberalized.

2. Youth season. Having the youth season the weekend after Thanksgiving is a great idea. It gives the kids a chance to hunt without interfering with school.

I support the proposed regulation changes for the 2016-2017 deer season for both the firearms and archery seasons.

I think the archery regulations should remain the same, that's the whole purpose to the archery season is the difficulty and the challenge of using a vertical bow, we need that degree of difficulty and sport left in deer hunting, why make it easier for anyone to kill a deer, but then take away from the ones that truly enjoy the sport of archery hunting by decreasing the number of bucks that can be harvested, this is not a good change for deer management in Missouri

1. Why reduce the Nov. firearms season if it "will only minimally reduce opportunity"? 2. OK with other firearm changes. 3. Very strongly opposed to crossbows for everyone. Would not be opposed to an age such as 60 and above? This would "prolong participation". If kids can't get excited enough with gun hunting for deer and turkey during the present optimum hunting they currently enjoy, they won't continue anyway. Many are "spoiled" and never really appreciate what they have since it is too easy. Many lose interest when they are older and have to actually "compete" during the regular season with all hunters. They should wait until they can "handle" a bow properly before they can archery hunt. Bow advances have made it much easier for kids to start bow hunting earlier. By allowing crossbows, hunter numbers will definitely increase, harvest will increase (more than offsetting the decrease of antlered buck harvest due to archers only having one any-deer tag), crippled deer will increase, and archery will make up an even "larger proportion of the total antlered buck and overall deer harvest". Allowing crossbows is almost like opening up the entire season for gun hunting and allowing the "crazies" a free reign. Bow hunting is still a somewhat pure sport and adding crossbows for everyone along with eliminating their second any-deer tag is sort of a "slap in the face" to good bow hunters. Most archery hunters would probably use their first archery any-deer tag in place of a firearms any-deer tag if that was an option. If shooting too many does with a bow while attempting to harvest a second buck is a concern, then limit the number of doe tags. I have bow hunted for almost 40 years and have had to use a crossbow exemption in the past due to neck surgeries. It is definitely an advantage when using a crossbow. I also think that all the "pressure" that is put on the deer by more and more hunters and almost continuous back-to-back seasons is making our deer more and more nocturnal. Where I hunt, baiting has become the "norm" instead of the exception. It's bad enough competing with archers hunting over corn. Can you imagine the impact of allowing crossbows to everyone that can buy a bag of corn? The only reason I think our non-resident fees are low is that some of our neighboring states "put it to us" when we go there.

It can be a struggle to get into the woods each year with so much going on as it is. I fear that any shortening of the season will only make it harder. Harder to hunt either by myself, or with the kids. We might not even buy tags if the seasons are shortened.

I like reducing the length of the antlerless season to help build up deer numbers.

The percentage of 3 bucks taken by a hunter, which would include 2 by archery, are so very small that this reduction in the regulation is not warranted. And yes, the argument to reduce it will make a person pass a buck that they might not shoot if they only have one is unfounded in my opinion. I don't think it will make a difference that will be able to be seen or tracked with hard fast statistics. Also, non resident deer permit fees are ok as long as you can still shoot two bucks with your bow. Two or more trips to your state spending money on facilities gas and such. Please reintroduce the non resident land owner permit again. You had it until 2008, I believe. It can be brought back. I own 100 acres in Boone county and travel to it at least once a month, spend money at MFA on fertilizer, lime, seed and such, gas, food and the like, not to mention property taxes. 3 bucks is a main reason why I bought ground in Missouri. Thanks for the ability to share my opinions.

I would rather see the firearms season shortened and shifted into late November or early December. This is going to help Missouri's buck population stabilize and increase in age structure while still providing a decent harvest. I also think the antlerless season should be in mid to late December. I disagree with the concept of allowing crossbows as an acceptable archery method. This is going to drastically increase buck harvest and total archery harvest by 10s of thousands. Even modern compounds are still no match for crossbows when it comes to ease of use and lack of training required to shoot. I think many more deer will be wounded and maimed by unskilled crossbow users trying to shoot beyond ethical ranges. Missouri will continue to be surpassed as a great deer management state as long as mature buck harvest isn't prioritized more.

Please save the integrity of archery and not allow crossbows as archery method. 18 and under and 62 and over may use crossbow. 2 bucks total, gun or bow. One gun one bow or two bow no gun.

I like some of the changes but, in my opinion, limiting the number of bucks that can be harvested doesn't help control the deer population. To me it seems that a lot of the new regulations are geared more to the trophy hunters, who killed the deer for their horns, not the meat. The deer population seems to be smaller in the areas that I hunt and I think it is because of all the doe tags that are available. It seems that we don't have a deer season anymore, with all the different types of methods at different times in the fall and winter. Thanks for asking my opinion.

I use a draw keep as I am no longer strong enough to draw my bow traditionally. Please be sure to make modified bows legal if you allow crossbows. Using a draw keep is much more akin to archery than use of a crossbow.

Crossbow hunting during archery season is long overdue.

DO NOT allow crossbow in regular archery season! The crossbow is three time more effective than legal archery equipment!

CROSSBOWS should NOT be allowed in regular archery season!

Do not allow crossbows in regular archery season! The buck harvest will greatly increase!

Do not allow crossbows in regular archery season. Buck harvest will increase because the crossbow is 3 times more effective!

Crossbow should NOT be allowed in regular archery season.
Do not allow crossbow in regular archery season.
I think they need to leave the number of bucks too two for the archery season. I vote for no antlerless season at all! As for crossbows, only if you have a doctors excuse, like it has always been. I think 9 days is ok.
I do not think we need to have crossbows used during archery season. Anyone who is physically unable to draw a bow should be able to get a doctor's note so they can use the current rules to use a crossbow during archery season. I do not know the details of getting permission to use a crossbow via doctor's note, but I would imagine the process isn't convenient. Perhaps the process could be stream line instead of allowing able bodied individuals use crossbows.
I am very happy to hear the conservation department is looking in to the decrease in the deer population. I would like to see more deer and an increase in trophy bucks in the future. I agree with 4 of the 6 proposed changes. As an avid bowhunter, I am strongly against the use of crossbows. The only way I would agree is to put an age limit on the use of crossbows. Allow people 50 and older and anyone handicap to use crossbows. I disagree with the youth season during the rut. I would rather see an early youth season (oct) and one weekend in November, but not 2 weekends.
I am looking forward to being allowed to use a crossbow during the archery deer season. I have not purchased an archery tag and have not participated in the archery season since about 1991. I will definitely start buying an archery tag as soon as crossbows become legal for that season.
Lengths of deer seasons should stay the same, but the amount of harvest per person should be regulated according to population of the deer. This will be good for the economy of the state because it will encourage outside hunters and resident hunters will have more time to get their deer, therefore, spending more money. Also, I believe only handicapped or senior citizens should be able to use a crossbow during bow season. A bow hunter should be allowed to kill two bucks during the season but only one doe until population allows more does to be killed.
I think it's great but I wish you would add that people get one buck period each year. This will make people much more selective. The only item I did not agree with is letting anyone use a crossbow. They have become so advanced I'm not sure it's any different than a rifle or shotgun.
Do not like crossbow as legal method for archery. That is why I quit gun hunting, too much pressure people walking around.
I feel that crossbows should be used under special permits only and that the number of antlered deer should remain the same. I like the extra portions for youth. If anything, allow youth under 16 to use crossbows.
Like the idea of using crossbow during archery season. I think many folks my age or older would appreciate it. I bow hunted religiously until I was about 30 when, at that time, kids started coming my way. My 3 boys bow hunt too. Now that I am older and physically unable to climb a tree, the crossbow would get me back in the game.

I think the doe season is good as is and should not be reduced. It allows hunters two weekends to go after does so if weather is bad they have plenty of time. I do think allowing crossbows during archery is a good thing. Many people already have permission to use them and it would reduce paper work. Missouri's deer herd is in good shape and these changes would not apply that much added pressure to them in my opinion.

I think crossbows should not be allowed other than for people that can't use a bow and if you do make them legal there will be a lot less deer then there are now. There is not many deer around like there has been because of blue tongue and by legalizing crossbows you will have more people hunting and we can't build our deer herds back up. You just need to keep everything the same, like it has all these years. It has worked for many years and I am sure it will work for many more.

Do not eliminate Urban zone portion. Too many deer in Southern Boone area create opportunity for deer/auto collision. Very risky last fall driving after dark. Numerous recent spring deer sightings on New Haven Rd, Rangeline Rd. indicate excess population. Will allow hunters on my property.

I think all of the proposals are a great idea.

I am in favor of allowing crossbows for all archery hunters. I've hunted using a compound bow for a number of years, and believe that crossbows will encourage others to bow hunt, as well as offer a potentially more humane kill for those bow hunters who might be inexperienced. I'm indifferent with the remaining suggested changes.

I agree with most of the proposed changes. However, you need to move the rifle season back. The most important reason is to ensure the majority of the does are being bread prior to the pressure of rifle season. Missouri has just as good of habitat as Iowa, Kansas and Illinois. However, they have a later season which allows there does to be bread prior to the rifle season and thus the fawns are born consistently in late May. The fawns, thus, get off to better start. I have hunted Iowa and Kansas and I rarely see spike bucks in either state, as my belief the yearling bucks are born early enough that by the time they are 1 1/2 yr of age, they have a developed 6-8 pt antlers. By reading the MDC's reason for moving the rifle season back, it appears you agree with me that the season should be moved back. Sometimes you have to realize many hunters are not very educated in regards to deer management and herd health. Sometimes you have to make a decision as to what is right for your herd and not worry about what some non-educated hunters want for their own selfish reasons. In the long run they will benefit, even if they don't think it is a good idea at this point. I do like the idea of the use of a crossbow, as I am getting older and my need for bifocal glasses causes problems when shooting my compound bow. I have thought for years that archery hunters over the age of 60 should be able to use a crossbow, without requiring a doctors permit. I do believe Missouri should make non-resident hunters pay a reciprocal price for tags as what we have to pay to hunt their states. I can't even hunt Iowa every year, but Iowa resident can come kill three bucks in Missouri every year. Not fair. PLEASE MOVE THE RIFLE SEASON BACK INTO EARLY DECEMBER! You know it is the right thing to do.

If you reduce the archery antlered deer limit to one will the price of the permit cost also be reduced. I think the permit cost should be half since the bag limit is half, or include an antlerless permit.

I think allowing crossbows is a good idea, gets more people in the woods. If you are against crossbows, you don't have to use them, don't keep other people from hunting.

No problem with proposed changes to gun season, limiting archery to one buck makes no sense, by MDC numbers .03 percent shoot second buck. THE CROSSGUN DOES NOT BELONG IN ARCHERY SEASON, IT IS NOT A BOW!

Crossbows should be used by disabled hunters who have a medical exemption. I believe that there will a lot people purchasing archery permits with no archery hunter education and a lot of wounded deer. If the current regulation that allows archery hunters to harvest two bucks is not broke why the change. Is this a result of pressure from crossbow manufactures?

I do NOT agree on proposed archery season change of allowing only one antlered buck per season. I was a member of Missouri Bowhunters when we influenced that change. It was a good change allowing 2 antlered deer. I would not like to see this reverted back to what is was when I started bow-hunting in 1985. Don't go backwards, move forward in our deer management process. Staying afield, hunting two bucks keeps me outdoors doing what I love to do, buying more doe tags, and spending more on hunting associated products. I don't always take two bucks with my bow but I love having the chance, at least. I don't think this would be a good change. Thank you.

I think it's great that the MDC is really looking at getting the youth involved in hunting. I also like limiting the antlered deer to 1. I feel like Missouri is lacking other surrounding states in mature deer even though the cover and food sources are very similar. The antler restriction helps, but there are still many immature bucks being shot. I would love for Missouri to be in the same category as Iowa, Kansas, and Illinois when talked about in hunting circles. I feel like with a few tweaks, Missouri could be even better known for world-class whitetail deer. I am in favor of all the changes except the following: "Allow crossbows as a legal method during the archery deer and turkey season". I have hunted since I was at least 10. The main objection I have for this regulation is because it will be very easy for people to pursue and take an animal with minimal effort. This will likely increase the number of poaching incidents as well as wounded deer. While crossbows can shoot very far, their actual effective range is much shorter (similar to a compound bow). However, the difference between a bow and crossbow is a less-experienced hunter will try to take an animal at farther ranges with a crossbow; crossbows in general are easier to master. I am not against crossbows either; I own one which I use for taking my kids out during the firearms season. Thanks for the consideration.

Crossbows should not be allowed during archery season. Exception would be hunters with physical disability only.

Unfortunately I wasn't able to attend one of the open houses do to work and weather. I did make a rather irrational comment when it first came out the thoughts on the new regulations and I

really wanted to take the time to put forth my true opinion and more of an educated comments. I am a bow hunter more than a rifle hunter and feel that it is unfair that I lose a buck tag when I would rather shoot one with my bow than a gun so I would propose that I could use my unused rifle buck tag for the second part of the archery season. That would allow me to still harvest two bucks but one would be with my choice of weapon. Shortening gun season I'm good with. I remember when it was short anyway. I never needed that much time with a gun because I always had my bow tags. Now the deal breaker, the one that is painful to swallow, allowing crossbow for archery tackle. For youth under twelve maybe even 14 for the older crowd who can't pull a bow back anymore I get and have no issues with at all. But for your average healthy hunter there is no reason for them to be allowed. I realize they are popular and they bring money in but bow hunting is bow hunting. A crossbow is no different than shooting a smooth bore shotgun. Yes they have to be closer than rifle, but it is essentially a gun that fires an arrow. They have a scope they shoot harder have a heavier focus it's not bow hunting. Please take this into consideration. A.F.

Keep the limit on archery antlered deer at two. Only allow crossbows for those that are not physically able to shoot a bow. I think the changes to the firearms portion sound like a good idea. I hunt mainly in Pike and Ralls county. In my area I didn't see a huge drop in the number of deer I was seeing. I mainly bow hunt and just don't see the point in restricting the limit on archery to only one antlered deer.

I feel that the firearm season should be moved back a couple of weeks. By doing this the bigger bucks are not pressured as much during the prime breeding season so it will allow them to breed more does, passing on more of their genes. If that big buck could have 2-3 more weeks to breed does, how many more does could they breed in a 2-3 week period? I think this change would increase more big bucks in the future. I also feel that an Iowa residents for example can buy a tag over the counter or on line to hunt our great state and PAY ONLY 225.00 for a tag while a Missouri resident, who is lucky enough to even draw a Iowa tag, HAS TO PAY 500.00 is not right. I feel that Missouri should charge an out of state hunter the same as their state charges a Missouri hunter for the same kind of tag. I think you all are on the right track, we just need to tweak the regulations a little.

I am in favor of crossbows as a legal archery method and limiting archery bucks to 1 per hunter. I also favor the proposed changes to antlerless season.

I would not be in favor of allowing crossbows during the archery season. This will increase a hunter's effective range thus killing more deer and recruiting more hunters who do not archery hunt to hunt during the archery season. I would like to keep the archery antlered deer harvest at 2 for the season. I have never in 16 years of archery season killed a second buck after the rifle season. Will limiting the archery buck kill to 1 really change harvest numbers all that much? I will be more likely to take advantage of archery hunting opportunities if I have the option of taking a second buck even though I have not done so in my archery life.

Will the price of the archery tag change with the number of deer tag reduction? Allow crossbow for hunters 45 and older.

It's common sense that a crossbow is more like a gun than a bow when you examine the weapon. I don't have a problem with medical exemptions allowing the use of a crossbow during archery season, but I draw the line there. Allowing anyone to use a crossbow for the entire archery season is ridiculous. I feel like this proposed change would ruin the archery season for traditional bow hunters, especially those that are limited to hunting on public land. This change would also take away a lot of the opportunity gun hunters have at harvesting an antlered buck. A lot more deer would be killed in archery season basically by a gun. Not fair for gun hunters or bow hunters. I hope MDC applies some common sense to this issue instead of being influenced by politics.

I am personally outraged about the use of a crossbow for everyone. I have just last year used a crossbow for the first time during bow season. I was diagnosed with melanoma in May last year 2014 and having arthritis in my spine hips shoulder and elbow. The Dr. gave me a permit for use of a crossbow for 5 years. Yes, I've come to terms that I have a handicap. I've worked all my life and continue to do so. I feel I've earned the right to use a crossbow. Now you want everyone to use a crossbow? I say let them earn it. I am 54 years old and if anyone can use a crossbow during bow season does this mean I can use a rifle during bow season because of my handicap? I just can't believe the Mo Conservation is taking this away from handicapped people. I may just forget about hunting all together. I know your minds are already made up about getting rid of bows letting anyone use a crossbow so consider handicap people using rifles instead of crossbows during bow season. Please reconsider.

Agree first firearm proposal changes, archery should not allow crossbows during season, agree should only allow 1 buck during archery season, non residents should pay same rate it would cost Mo hunter to purchase deer tag in their state. Agree with conservation regs proposal, with that being said, all deer seasons should end by Christmas!

The changes look good. Moving the youth season is a good change. Also, keep the pressure on the game farms in order to protect our wild deer population. I would vote to eliminate captive deer in Missouri. It's not worth the risk to our natural resources for captive deer.

I believe in one change most importantly, the use of crossbows in bow season. I lived in Wyoming for several years and they do allow for the use of crossbows in bow season. I had friends that had them and some with the latest compound bows. After watching during elk, deer and antelope seasons I saw no advantage that the crossbow had that these new compounds bows didn't! Also, in some cases the compound was actually better. Also, I saw the use of lighted knocks which were great for recovery of the arrow, and again I saw no advantage other than being able to retrieve an arrow. This is somewhat like the debate that went on for a few years about inline Muzzle loaders and the traditional Muzzle loaders. There is no difference in the weapon other than newer technology and possibly safer than the old ones, but hey, we're all hunters so we all need to coexist. I am now disabled and am having trouble with my compound bow, so being able to use a crossbow when I get to that point would be nice and also, I truly believe that youth benefit from a crossbow and then later they can do the compound bow as they grow. I think as far as the deer season, you all are our conservation guys who know what's

probably best for them based on how they will do with any change. We as hunters we will b--tch of course, but we will also understand that it is best for the herd and that is what is most important.

I am an avid bowhunter and enjoy other seasons as well. I do not agree with changing the bow season to 1 antler deer limit. Many of us harvest a buck prior to the rifle season and enjoy being able to hunt again during the late season. From what I can see very few antlered deer are taken after the gun season with a bow. This is taking the late season bowhunt away from many of use to allow for the harvest of deer by crossbow hunters. I am not against crossbows, just make it either or tag that you can buy a crossbow tag (an shoot only 1 buck) but then cannot buy a bow tag. And if you buy a bow tag (still allowed to harvest 2 bucks) you cannot buy a crossbow tag. Seems to me that would make more sense. It used to be that way with muzzle loaders and I think would work fine now! Another issue I fear is we are heading down the road of making hunting an elite sport that only people with money can afford. Similar to what has happened in Texas and Illinois and Iowa. I used to hunt in both neighboring states and did not mind the higher tag cost but the drive for larger deer has changed the private land from letting a friend or buddy hunt to leasing to hunters with more money.

I understand shortening the season back to 9 days. I don't care if crossbows are legal. What I fail to understand is why limit the archery antlered deer to one? That makes absolutely no sense. The only reason most people hunt late season is for antlered deer. You're not going to accomplish shooting more doe at all, so why take the sportsman out of the woods?

I like the changing of youth season and shortening of rifle days mainly because I'd rather spend my time bow hunting. This being said, where I strongly disagree with taking an any deer tag away from bow hunters. I feel like taking a tag away ends the season early for a lot of people. It's open for 4 months which is plenty of time to hunt mature white tail to manage the herd. If I kill a mature deer in September there's still 3 months of season and I can't search for another deer in other property if we only get one tag. Charge extra for it but don't just take it away.

Ok with all four firearms proposed changes. Do not allow crossbows without an exemption during bow season. Like reducing the antlered take to one during bow. Simpler is usually better but I have had no issues with interpreting the regulations.

Do not change deer season length or # of antlered deer that can be taken in the combined archery season & rifle season. Yes, allow crossbows for archery, at least for the above 55 folks. Don't change firearm.

Leave things alone. Just add crossbows. Seasons and limits are good, that was why I bought land here and moved to Mo.

I don't think you should limit one antlered for archery season and I don't agree with moving the late youth season, the rest is fine.

As a landowner and hunter, I support the reduction in days of deer hunting. I am not sure if allowing crossbows as a method besides the current use is needed. I agree with only one antlered deer by archery. Overall I am looking forward to the proposed changes.

I am opposed to the elimination of the urban zone portion of the season and am in favor of allowing crossbows. I am also very appreciative of you taking public feedback.
Have you considered the use of crossbows in the second half of archery only?
I think the \$225 nonresident deer permit price is fair enough EXCEPT when that nonresident is hunting on private land which he or she owns. Maybe consider recovering any lost revenue from giving nonresident landowners a better price by charging nonresidents a substantial fee for hunting on Missouri's public grounds. Those are the only hunters "displacing" any resident hunters anyway. The old reasoning of "those nonresidents are keeping us locals from having a place to hunt so they should pay more" shouldn't apply to nonresidents hunting on their own land. I've heard a new deal was under consideration for nonresidents owning at least 70 acres, but I can't find any related information on this site. Thanks for listening. D.M.
Support proposed changes. Deer numbers way down in a lot of areas. Baiting & improper checking becoming a big problem.
Continue the current 11 day hunt firearms season. Do not expand the youth season to 3 days. Prefer to eliminate the youth season. Completely eliminate the antlerless deer season. DO NOT authorized crossbow weapon within the archery season. DO NOT reduce the antler deer archery season to one antlered deer.
Please maintain the current timing of the firearms deer season. Do not reduce the current 11 day November firearms season to 9 nine days. Do not expand the youth season to 3 days. Eliminate the antlerless season. Do not allow crossbows as a legal method during the archery deer season. Do not reduce the limit of antlered deer to one during the archery season.
Maintain the current timing of the November portion of the deer firearms deer season. Do not reduce the current length to 9 from 11 days. Do not expand the length of the youth season to 3 days. Do not allow crossbow to be used during the archery deer seasons. Do not reduce the limit of antlered deer to one during the archer season.
Please DO NOT open the archery season to crossbows. Taking a deer with a bow is something that I am very proud of and it takes a lot of hunting and work to do this. I know a lot of people that do not bow hunt because of this. It is nice not having all these hunters in the woods during bow season. I know the archery manufacturers are probably lobbying for this because there is a lot of money to be made with all these hunters now buying crossbows. But you will be taking away from the few of us that bow hunt the pride of being the only ones that have the will and determination to be the only ones in the woods. So please DO NOT open the archery to crossbows.
I agree with all the changes suggested. My particular interest is the crossbow change. I strongly support this change, just look at the success of our neighboring states.
NO to crossbows during archery season. Leave as is.
I strongly object to the reduction of the archery antlered deer limit to one. Keep it at two and continue to only allow crossbow hunting during the firearms portion of the season. I support to

keep all seasons lengths as they are and do not support the reduction in days of any season as it allows folks with busy schedules more opportunity to get in the field.

I am against crossbows in archery season.

Do not allow crossbow use during the archery season. Crossbows rigged with scopes as they now, is just like using a firearm. Do not eliminate the Urban deer season.

Good Afternoon, and thank you for providing the public an opportunity to comment on the proposed changes to deer season regulations. My name is D.M. Jr. I was born and raised in Missouri, and was fortunate to spend the first 2/3 of my life fishing and hiking and camping in Missouri State Parks, conservation areas, wildlife areas and many other beautiful public, natural spaces. I'm a proud Missourian (and St. Louisan to be specific). My parents are nearly lifelong Missouri residents, as are my siblings and best friends. I have always enjoyed recreating with my family above all other activities. Like many others I'm sure, after college I moved away from the state I love (Missouri) to find work in my field, first in Colorado and now Wisconsin. Some might say this was a choice, but frankly I don't necessarily see it that way, we go to where the work is. While I didn't grow up hunting for a number of reasons, just 3 years ago, as an adult, I've become very interested in this pursuit. I've learned much about firearms and safety and strategy and wildlife, and would now consider myself an avid hunter of various species, including turkey, rabbits, ducks and of course deer. Part of the reason I got into hunting was that it was activity that my Dad had a chance to do with his and my brother and I decided we should do it with him, now that our Grandpa has passed on. When I got into hunting, I didn't really ever think that I'd be forced to consider whether or not I'd be able to afford to do it with my family in my native state. For the past 2 seasons, I've saved my nickels and dimes to be able to afford a non-resident deer permit. And while I love hunting with my Dad and brother just about as much as anything, it's becoming increasingly difficult to afford the \$225 annual permit for a nonresident deer hunt. For me, in addition to the \$225 permit, I must add the cost of gas to/from Madison, Wisconsin to St. Louis. Sometimes I have to double that fuel expense, if I'm lucky, I'll be able to hunt both weekends during the season so that I can spend a bit of extra time in the woods with the guys. The bottom line is that it adds up and it seems unfair to people like me, who grew up in the state, paid taxes for many years, who contribute to the state's economy in other ways and who just want to spend time with their family doing what they love. I have no issues with the other proposed changes, but I'd strongly encourage you to re-think the structure for the non-resident deer permits—specifically, I'd encourage the Department not to increase the fees, and to consider either decreasing the cost, or implementing a decreased fee mechanism for people born in the state, or who lived there previously or who have immediate family members who are also hunters (maybe a discounted 3-pack?). Thank you. Sincerely, D.M.

There are rumors of you allowing hunters to use a crossbow during all archery season in the future. I vote no. I am 100% against this. Guys that want to use a crossbow now have the option to do so in the alternative method. I think that season is a great thing. If the crossbow expands to all archery season it will ruin it for the diehard bowhunters such as myself. Too many folks in the woods like firearm season. If this is being considered for more revenue of tags being sold just

raise the price of the tags that we have now and keep the regulations the same I would much rather pay more and have less people in the woods to enjoy my archery season. And I don't know what it is about bagging a deer with bow, it is just something holy about it that I do not get from a firearm. I feel a sense of pride and accomplishment. Please don't allow my archery season to be flooded with yuppies with crossbows. Now if you are disabled or over 65 I think it is a fine thing to be able to use a crossbow but that is it! Thank you very much. N.W. - NO ON CROSSBOW

Do not want just anyone using crossbow during regular archery season.

I'm interested in having mature 5, 6, & 7 year old bucks to hunt. I was optimistic that there would be some regulation changes that would help move the herd in that direction. That's not what I see in the proposed changes/non-changes. I do appreciate MDC's efforts to seek and utilize public input, but the masses still want to blaze away at anything with antlers and that is not the recipe for monster bucks.

I would be against crossbows being used during regular archery season this year.

I agree with most of the changes but I do not think the archery season needs to be changed, most hunters don't fill all their tags. I also don't agree with allowing crossbows for everyone.

No.

Change the Nov. rifle season to Dec. Stop rifle hunting the rut. Limit nonresident tags and raise the price of the tags to match the state they live in. Do not allow crossbows during archery season.

Firearms changes: I am not in favor of shortening the firearms season to 9 days. I feel it would limit those who can only hunt during the weekend. I am in favor of lengthening the youth season. I am in favor of shortening the doe season. I am in favor of eliminating the urban season. Archery season: I am in favor of both allowing crossbows and lowering the number of bucks allowed during the bow season. Conservation Areas: I am very much in favor of tightening regulations in Conservation areas as I have seen firsthand the good it has done for Woodson K.Woods.

I think the season should not be shortened. There is very limited time as it is for those of us who hunt deer. If a person is a trophy hunter they may not mind but for those of us who rely on deer meat as a big part of our diet, the extra day can go a long way. I also believe that the urban season should not be eliminated. If anything it should be increased. In Green county I have noticed that the areas around Springfield seem to be overrun with deer and the Green county urban hunt helps drop these numbers. As far as the out of state hunting tags I believe they should be lowered. I hunt out of state and one of the biggest issues on where to hunt is who is the cheapest for tags. I believe lowering the cost will bring more hunters in and increase revenue for the state. I also do not believe it will hurt the deer numbers that significantly.

Shorten season, one buck total, do away with the youth season, put a regulation on deer stand as far as painting them a safety orange. There needs to be a rule stating how close to a fence line they can hunt. Landowners should have the right to take them down and have the chose to keep or to turn in a stand or blind that is on their land that does not belong. T.H.

I believe the current system in place for crossbow permitting is effective. It provides hunting opportunities for those with physical impairments while affording adequate accommodations where needed. I am concerned an open permit archery / crossbow season will result in a lessened experience for those currently being served by this system. Additionally, I fear the incidents of wounded, killed but unrecovered, and road hunted/pouched deer will increase as a result of the proposed changes. The archery season has historically served the hunter who enjoys investing in our wonderful Ozarks deer herd with early season scouting, food plot development and herd management. I believe the additional early season pressure will impact the entire season negatively. The current non-resident fee structure is inadequate. With the excellent deer and turkey numbers Missouri boasts we have become the cheapest alternative for Iowa, Illinois, Kansas and Texas residents who are looking for an out of state hunt. Unfortunately, for those of us who would love to venture outside Missouri in order to hunt, the cost in the previously mentioned states is cost prohibitive for most. I would like to see Missouri adopt a fee structure that is reciprocal with the fees charged by other states.

When I began deer hunting in 1984, the season limit was one deer, and I was hunting off of a farm tag and it was bucks only then. A few years later the department began to allow the harvest of does also. The practices then built the large populations that the state had into the 90's. I believe getting back to these practices will work again. The numbers of deer lost to blue tongue and CWD have dropped the populations in several counties. I hunt in Knox county and have noticed a severe drop in deer sightings there. I believe there are other counties that have been hit harder. Now I haven't killed a deer in a few years, because of either weather conditions or opportunity just wasn't there. I passed up smaller deer last year as I have in past years, to see full grown deer the following years. This practice could help, but difficult to make a rule. I haven't seen deer numbers like the early to mid 90's for a while, but would be nice to get back to this again. Pertaining to the limits proposed for the 2016-17 seasons, length limits will help, some, increased tag limits will help in conjunction to make a better impact. I don't think eliminating the urban portion will help, as those areas are over populated and need the control. I would maintain as usual in those areas. The deer in those areas feel safe from hunting pressure now. If you eliminate this method more deer will find safe haven there. As far as crossbows during archery season, I don't feel this will help population size, but if anything decrease, as you will make hunting this season less limiting and numbers of tags will increase from this. The limit of one antlered deer during this portion will help though, but only in the maintaining of current archery practices and this limit. If you look at the numbers of archery tags purchased vs the numbers of tag purchasers that take both bucks during this season, allowing crossbow will only increase the number of deer taken during this season.

Please do not allow crossbows as a legal method. Keep for those with doctor permission. The archery change to 1 antlered deer makes little sense in so many areas. Keep it two (as is) or at least allow 2 antlered deer total per season (any combo)

Like the idea of crossbow during archery, people with medical waivers already are using crossbows just adds to the number of possible hunters.

Appendix C. Comments that were mailed and called into Department Offices

MAIL-IN COMMENTS

My name is F.S and my wife's name is N. We live in the Peace Valley area, Oregon County. We are conservationist, we love God's creation. We are sportsmen. We obey all Conservation Laws, even the ones that we believe are not fair to ALL other sportsmen, and these are time limits on seasons and the number of deer and turkey that can be and are taken in archery seasons. Our turkeys are in a decline in our area and has been for a while. We would like to see turkey season for archery and fall fun season closed for a period of two years. And as for deer archery season, is too long and too many bucks taken. Five months is too long. I know it's the money for deer permits that drives this, but not good for firearm season, ten days - yense's five months and throwing all types of weapons and seasons into - what you call it - Alternative Methods Season. You may as well call it an All Open Season - not muzzleloading season as it was once called. Needs to be separated. Ten days vense five months for muzzleloader to archery does not and is not fair to those that firearm and muzzleload hunt. You should survey all hunters that bought permits last season, you have their addresses, then set the seasons for the best of all the sportsmen. How about bow season from late October to 1st Jan, 4 months. Firearm season 1st of November to 15th of November. Muzzleloader 1st of December to 15th of December. Keep holidays open for family. The rest of Alternative Season (leaving muzzleloader completely out of this season) 16th of December through 20th of December. No archery in this season. Period. Keep youth season the same. Age limit on youth should be 10 years old or older. Dad's tend to fill younger youths tags with hunter education cert.

The Dept. asks for input, comments on regulations for control of our wildlife, to insure that our wildlife would be here for generation to enjoy in years to come. I am 75 years old and I have hunted and fished all my life and I am a good steward over God's creation. That makes me a Conservationist. I wrote a letter to Missouri Dept. of Conservation with this feedback. To give you a little history of me, I don't do other sports, golf, bowl, baseball, softball, handball, hockey, tennis, and other. Hunting, fishing, and hiking, mushrooming, boating and I have seen a lot in my years. For one, all the trash along our highways, in our woods, and our streams. New more education on keeping our outdoors clean. not only our young children but our old don't care attitude on our older generation. Larger fines to those that just don't care. And a real concentration by our law enforcement to control this problem. It costs a lot of money each year to clean up the mess that others create. Let the ones that make the mess pay for cleaning it up. And my thoughts and suggestions on changes in our laws for hunting as in my first letter, and hope that my efforts in writing both letters are not just trash canned. We need to make sure our kids and grandkids and great grandkids have the chance to enjoy what we leave behind us. The law on the time limits on season and the number of deer and turkey that can be taken in archery season. Archery season is way too long. Needs to be shorten down by one month. Start the 1st of October and ends 1st of January. I used to bow hunt myself and know for a fact that a lot of deer

gets shot and never found. Talked to lot of my bow hunting buddies and there's where I get my info. besides some myself. Limits on bucks one buck per hunter per year whether it be rifle, bow, muzzleloader, or any other method. Too many young bucks are killed during bow season that's why I say that season is too long. And as for turkey, no hen turkey to be taken during fall season, by gun or archery. Turkey in our area is in a decline and has been the last three years. Don't shorten the time limits or rifle muzzleloader season. One buck and two does should be enough for any hunter either bow or gun. I will send another copy of my first letter along with this letter. Do a survey on all fall turkey hunters and I know most bow hunters don't want their season shortened but it's fair to the rest of us. F.S.

Greetings, I appreciate your "openness" in the deer herd situation and want to share a few points/concerns. First off, I am older with grown children who have enjoyed and do hunt. I support the youth program(s) and think MDC has done a good job. I hunt on private land in northeast Missouri and have for many years. I've noticed the deer decline the past three years especially and think it is due to a combination of the various diseases that have affected the herd and drought, combined with the liberal limits allowed on does. I'd like to see the following regarding your proposed changes. Rifle - 1) Shorten the rifle season to nine days with the current timing. 2) The doe season needs to be shortened but to six days and make them over two weekends to allow more hunter participation. 3) Put blackpowder season as a "rifle" with no "special season". Archery - 1) One buck for the season (strongly agree). 2) Disagree on the crossbow rule change. Misc. 1) Out of state licensee should be RAISED. It is not right that we pay \$(up arrow)\$ to go to IL, ext. and they come here so inexpensive... 2) Better regulate these OUTFITTERS and their antics. Respectfully - J.B.

Dear Officers, I am writing to share my feelings on the proposal changes to the fall deer season. I believe using crossbows during archery season would be a great idea. It will let everyone young and old have a chance to utilize the archery season. Also, limiting the archers to one buck is a great idea. Changing the youth season to an earlier date is a good idea because it is usually so cold in January the kids don't enjoy going. Please leave the Alternative methods around Christmas and New Year. A lot of people have days off and can utilize the deer season. Shortening rifle season is a great idea. I think because usually we don't see many deer the last weekend. The antler point restriction is not something I agree with. I pray Perry County never has to use the restriction. Thank you very much and God Bless, L.L.III

Attn: Policy Coordinator: Regarding proposed changes to reduction of antlered deer during the upcoming archer season. A. Only 10,000 to 15,000 (I'm not sure of the numbers) deer are harvested by bow each year. I'm assuming half being does and half being bucks with really no significant impact on overall numbers compared to the total harvested each year (over 200,000). B. Adding crossbows may increase the harvest numbers during archery season some but there's no way of knowing until it's been tried. Perhaps limiting crossbow hunters to one antlered deer/season to start with and see what happens number wise. Allow an exception for disabled hunters. C. I'm a serious archer and it's rare that I harvest two bucks in any given year but I like the option of taking another buck with my bow which allows me to get outdoors more. I have

participated in the annual archery observation survey for many years now and will be 76 years old this coming October and logged many hours hunting this past season. D. I'm not sure of the reasoning behind one buck/season; fear of too many crossbow kills, reducing antlered deer kills will offer more quality bucks for harvest attracting out of state hunters, increasing revenue for Missouri businesses, or increase gene pool for breaking or other reasons? E. I think Missouri has plenty of quality bucks especially since introducing the eight point rule (4 points on one side). F. 10 of my hunting buddies and I spend \$6,000/year leasing 600 +/- acres in northern Missouri for hunting and reducing archery antlered deer kills to one/season significantly increases our annual cost/deer. Two of the group come from Maryland and South Carolina each year. I personally would not like to see a limit of one antlered deer/archery season for the above reasoning. Please give my thoughts on this subject careful consideration. Sincerely C.C.M

I like to start off by saying thanks for your willingness to speak and learn from all hunters that love to peruse deer in this great state of Missouri. Here is my thoughts and ideas to help preserve our wildlife: 1. I'm in total favor of crossbows during archery season. This allows more hunters to get involved in the sport. 2. I think muzzleloader season should be before rifle season, not afterwards. AR & OK has muzzleloader season first. 3. I'm not in favor of extra doe tags for farmers, unless they are part of a deer management program. Each hunter should only be able to shoot one doe and one buck only. 4. Missouri Conservation needs to encourage land owners to participate in some type of deer management program. The program can have different level of involvement and for each level of involvement receive incentives for their commitment. Some of the incentives could include: a. Extra doe tags if needed. b. Discount or free food plot seeds. c. If an out of state resident and owns land in MO, not required to purchase a non-resident tag. d. FREE soil samples. e. First choice to No-till drills. f. Top of the list for help from the state on prescribed burns. 5. I believe and support the 4 point rule. This is the only way bucks have a chance to get close to maturity. 6. I live in Arkansas, but have farms in MO. I don't think it's fair that I get charged for gun and archery tags at the highest price of a non-resident when I do more for the deer than any other resident land owner in my area. If land owners support the deer management, award them for their commitment. I hope this feedback was helpful. Anyone is welcome to call me to discuss my ideas or any other ideas you might have. My farms are in Anderson MO - 250 acres and Ginger Blue MO - 375 acres. Thanks E.W.

I am writing in response to the proposed deer hunting regulation changes for the 2016-2017 season. MDC's state philosophy on hunting regulations in season structure included maximum opportunity and access. For reasons I will outline below I feel that the proposed changes are contrary to that goal. MDC's stated reason to change the regulations include responding to stabilizing and, in some cases, shrinking deer populations. It seems that there are 3 fundamental ways to address this goal. 1. Reducing time windows so hunters have fewer opportunities to hunt and thereby reducing the total harvest. 2. Reducing number of deer a hunter may harvest with limited tag availability. 3. Changing the hunting season to a timeframe outside peak rut to reduce likelihood of hunting success. There is substantial social resistance to #3 so I concur with MDC's position of leaving that off the table for the time being. Hunting is clearly a sport and not

a means of subsistence for the vast majority of Missourians which I think allows for MDC to have much latitude in curtailing harvest numbers per hunter (#2). MDC's approach to focus on #1 clearly reduces hunting opportunities for Missourians in general. Fewer days means fewer hunters have an opportunity for deer hunting thereby reducing it as a mainstream activity. Also, fewer days will inevitably mean a higher number of hunters converging on hunting land (public land, in particular) which would seem to increase the risk of accidental injuries. As someone who hunts public land in Missouri exclusively, I am particularly concerned about crowding more hunters into a smaller time window. I think it would be more consistent with MDC's stated philosophy to consider these changes in lieu of what is currently proposed.

1. Reducing deer harvests per hunter - perhaps even below 1 per hunter if needed.
2. Consider statewide limits of does and not just bucks.
3. Expand main firearms season or have a statewide 2nd season that would be outside peak rut - this would divert many hunters outside peak rut and reduce the impact hunting has on breeding biology.
4. Consider instating a lottery system for tags with decreasing odds for each incremental tag.

Eventually, MDC will probably need this if/when a major disease strikes our population. I think there is a lot of benefit in conditioning hunters to this process. The lottery system could work as follows:

- a. hunters participating in the lottery may not be issued a tag for main firearms season. Lottery system participation would be opt-in only initially.
- b. Tag quotes could be issued on a county by county basis, perhaps with statewide limits per hunter.
- c. Since the tags issued can be more tightly controlled, hunters who are issued a tag will benefit from less hunting pressure. I think many hunters would exchange not hunting every year for less pressure when they do hunt.
- d. MDC would have the opportunity to have hunting occur at different time frames in different counties - which, again, would allow a motivated hunter to hunt at a time that suites him or her better.

#4. coupled with #1-03, as needed, would expand opportunity for hunting, keep public lands more available to more hunters, reduce the biological impact of the current peak rut hunting season, and maintain a healthy deer population. This matches precisely with MDC's General Philosophy on Hunting Regulations and Season Structure. I hope you will consider these changes and, as always, I appreciate the effort MDC makes to manage Missouri wildlife. T.G.

Dear Sir or Madam: I am writing to offer comments regarding proposed 2016 changes to the Missouri deer hunting regulations. I am 65 years old and have hunted deer every year since moving to Missouri in 1978. Prior to that I resided in and hunted in four other states (NJ, MI, MA, and NH) and have been hunting with firearms and bow-and-arrow since I was 12. I also have an advanced degree in fish and wildlife biology. With respect to the proposed changes in the firearms season:

1. Retaining the current mid-November timing, but reducing the length of the season. I personally believe that mid-November is too early. The weather can be very warm and rutting bucks are too vulnerable. Deer season in Missouri used to be later in November, which I preferred. I would also rather see the alternative weapons segment before rather than after the regular season, as it is in many other states. i.e., the method should be most restrictive when the deer are most vulnerable and least restrictive when they are hardest to kill, which is typically later in the season. Nevertheless, I support reducing the overall length of the season.

Deer hunting is not universally revered; I therefore think it is in the best interest of MDC and the deer hunting community to minimize the potential for negative perceptions and interactions wherever and whenever possible. Many citizens (including bow hunters) are uncomfortable being outdoors during firearms deer season. Reducing the length of the seasons (regular and antlerless) will allow others to enjoy the outdoors. 2. Expanding and moving the late youth season. I don't support this. For the reason stated previously, this is tantamount to extending the firearms season over a holiday weekend during which non-hunters also enjoy being outdoors and will increase potential for negative interactions with non-hunters. See also next item. 3. Reducing the antlerless season to three days. I support this action. It will make the late bow hunting season much more enjoyable and allow others to enjoy the outdoors, per previous. In addition, many of us have archery, but not firearms, permission on private lands. Reducing the total length of the firearms season(s) will open many parcels up earlier for the second half of the archery season. 4. Eliminating the urban zones. I also support this. The boundaries are confusing and the early-season gun hunters can negatively affect bow hunting. With respect to the proposed changes in the archery regulations: 1. Allowing crossbows as a legal method. I consider myself fortunate in that I can still hunt with a (compound) bow despite my age. However, many hunters my age are physically unable to draw and shoot a bow, even a compound with 50-80% let-off. However, I'm not convinced that the archery hunting community (myself included) wants to see crossbows universally allowed for the entire season. Alternatively, I would propose allowing older hunters to use them throughout the season, as is the situation in other states (age 65 in WI, age 62 in IL). Perhaps also allow their use in the urban zones, which would encourage more hunting in those areas and lower the probability of wounding and losing the deer (a huge deterrent to subdivision hunting). I would also support allowing their use in the late (post-firearms) part of the season. Late-season deer are skittish and the lack of canopy makes shooting them with a bow difficult. I suspect that traditional bow hunters will be more willing to acquiesce to a partial crossbow season than to the proposed universal acceptance, which has drawn much negative criticism. 2. Reducing the number of antlered deer from two to one. I personally have no issue with this, although I suspect that it is related to the crossbow proposal and intended to mollify the traditional archery hunters. As indicated, late-season deer (especially post-rut bucks) are hard to kill with a bow. Modifying the crossbow proposal per # may obviate this change. However, allowing late-season crossbow hunting and their use in urban zones together with reducing the harvest of antlered bucks may encourage doe hunting, a desirable outcome in some areas. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed changes to the regulations. Sincerely yours, C.J.S.

Dear Members of the Policy Coordination Department: The following comments are made respectfully to the Missouri Department of Conservation seeking public input on proposed changes to the state's deer hunting regulations for the 2016-2017 whitetail deer hunting season. Thank you for considering my input in this important effort. Sincerely, R.C.T March 4, 2015. 1. Maintaining the current timing of the November portion but reducing the length from 11 days to nine days - Assuming that the first day of this season will be a Saturday, and the season is the

following ten consecutive days, this still affords two weekends for hunting. As such, this proposal does not seem to have a significant impact on the harvest. 2. Expanding the late youth firearms weekend from two to three days and having it begin the Friday after Thanksgiving instead of early January -Please do NOT make this modification to the Youth Season. The regular firearm season would have ended shortly before the post-Thanksgiving weekend, and the deer in all likelihood be stressed from the nine days of hunting pressure. If the Youth Season is to introduce young, novice hunters to the sport, the deer at this time are more stressed than for the beginning of the rifle season for us "older" hunters. This seems to generate the very opposite effect that would support efforts to introduce the hunting experience to the youth. 3. Reducing the length of the antlerless firearms portion from 12 days to three days and beginning it on the first Friday in December - In certain areas, there is an abundance of whitetail deer. An arbitrary Missouri-wide, 12-to-3 days change may be entirely necessary in some areas, but where I hunt along the Jackson-Cass Counties line, there is an abundance of deer and their numbers are to nuisance levels. 4. Eliminating the urban zones portion. - I strongly urge that this proposal be abandoned. The whitetail deer in the metropolitan areas are thriving. They are the cause of many vehicular accidents, causing personal injuries, property damage, and injuries and death to the deer. In these areas, the deer have shelter, water and food, and little pressure or predation. Controlled hunting is about the only method to control this almost-excessive population. Further, the local municipalities have undertaken legal efforts to eliminate hunting when safety concerns rise. For example, the eastern portion of Jackson County limits hunting, but in specific areas only as identified by the local government. I believe that a blanket suspension of this Urban Season is unwarranted since the local municipalities are addressing this matter.

I have been a deer hunter for 55 years. I can recall having missed opening day of the firearms season only one time since 1960. During all these years, I have hunted with rifles, shotguns, handguns, vertical bows, and for the past 20 years, with a crossbow. I have been very successful with these methods, and have left very few tags unfilled. I am primarily engaged in agriculture on four tracts of land, totaling 430 acres in Christian and Douglas counties. I have several acres totally dedicated to wildlife on three of these tracts, primarily for deer, and turkey. No, I do not claim to know everything about deer and deer hunting. I do, however, have a lot of experience and practical knowledge that should be seriously considered. Deer numbers are down in the southwest part of the state. The quality of trophy bucks is likewise down. I realize that your statistics may indicate otherwise, but I hunt in three or four southwest counties every year and I know what I'm seeing. Figures can lie. The main reason for this downturn is the hemorrhagic disease epidemic that started during the drought of 2012. The MDC was well aware of the scope of this epidemic long before the beginning of the 2012 hunting seasons, however, there was no cutback on the number of antlerless tags that were available that fall. We are still seeing the results of that mistake, however there is no point in dwelling on it now. At this point, tightening restrictions is the only solution to the problem. Cut the seasons short, impose antler point restrictions, or do whatever it takes to get our deer herd back to where it was prior to 2012. One of the biggest counterproductive errors that could be made would be legalizing crossbows for all

hunters. With torn rotator cuffs in both shoulders, I have used crossbows for the past 20 years. and I can attest that they are very efficient weapons. They are far more deadly than any vertical bow, and shooting them can be mastered in a matter of minutes. Most all crossbows are superbly accurate out to about 30 yards in the hands of even an average shooter and it requires no practice to maintain that level of marksmanship. Likewise, a crossbow hunter is not required to draw the bow in the presence of game and thus risk being detected. In my opinion, crossbow hunters are far more likely to pass up shots at marginal bucks than vertical bowhunters. This is because they can be more confident of their ability to execute a killing shot. They only need to be patient enough to hold out for that one shot. If crossbows are legalized for everyone, this characteristic alone will take a large number of true trophy bucks out of the herd before the regular firearms hunter even gets a chance. The early youth season already accounts for a large number of these bucks as it is. Beyond any shadow of doubt, legalizing crossbows across the board would boost revenue for the MDC through increased license sales and taxes generated through the sale of crossbows and tack.

Dear Sir/Madam, After reading the proposed changes, I find no mention of the current "Alternative" season, the one that used to be called "Muzzleloader" season. There is no mention of doing away with it, changing it, or even recognizing its existence. What are your proposed plans for this? Respectfully, J.H.W.

Thank you for asking for comments regarding proposed changes to deer seasons. Please do not shorten the firearms deer season. Please. There are personal reasons and larger concerns. I am retired and rely on as much venison as I can possibly get for food. I hunt for food, not for sport. As an older citizen, I find a longer season is less taxing. A short season reduces my possibility of taking a deer. My hope is that you would extend the season. A longer season reduces the unfortunate impact of bad weather which (as in this past season) restricts the movements of both the hunter and the hunted. Please lengthen, rather than shorten, the season. The larger concern is the number of hunters afield at one time. A short season concentrates hunters into limited hunting areas all at once. Everyone takes the same week of vacation and the wild shooting is scary. The pressure of a short season puts deer into hiding resulting in hunters, desperate to make a kill before the quick season end, driving the deer and taking wild shots at running game. Not good. In fact, the combination of pressed hunters and pressed game is flatly dangerous. Please consider lengthening the season. A three-week buck season would dramatically reduce the number of hunters in the woods at any one time, thereby lessening the threat of wild shots and, with fewer people in the vicinity, lessening the possibility of a wild shot striking a hunter. When I grew up in Louisiana, (state) the deer season lasted six weeks. It was rare to see another hunter because each person hunted according to his or her own schedule preferences. My schedule was to hunt every third day. Fewer hunters spread over a longer time span resulted in less pressure on the animals and less disruption of their feeding and breeding. The short Missouri season results in every sport hunter from every city converging on the rural deer habitat on the same day. I have learned to dread deer season due to the overcrowding, the wild shooting, and the harsh pressure on the animals. A longer season is kinder to the animals, more restrained and is definitely safer

for the public. Personally, I would enjoy a longer season for it would allow me to hunt in a manner that is more in tune with nature and more in tune with lessened physical abilities. The size of the harvest will be determined by the number of tags, no matter the season length. Please, please consider a longer season. Thank you for hearing this request. Sincerely, P.P.

Comments on 2016 Deer Season Regulations: I appreciate the opportunity to submit comments on the 2016 deer regulations for consideration by the Missouri Department of Conservation. I believe the 2016 deer regulations will detract from the quality and fairness of deer hunting during the archery portion of Missouri's deer season. As an MDC employee for 26.5 years, I had the opportunity to manage intensively managed tracts involved with public use (Swan Lake NWR, Eagle Bluffs CA, and Four Rivers CA). During this time, I obtained a strong sense of public opinion and the support or non-support for MDC policies. I get the sense from talking to several colleagues that there is a significant sector of the public that does not support the use of crossbows during the archery portion of deer season. The contemplated change in regulations to allow crossbow use during the archery portion of the deer season is problematic and a mistake, in my opinion, for the following reasons: 1. Crossbows are more precise, more accurate, shoot farther and require less skill than typical archery equipment (compounds, recurves, stick bows, ect.). If MDC would like to curtail the harvest of does to increase deer recruitment, the use of crossbows will negate this. 2. For decades, crossbows were placed in the firearms portion of the deer season. Crossbows shoot like a firearm, are sighted in like a firearm and require no physical capability to shoot the apparatus. Conversely, the typical archery equipment requires much more skill and physical capability to consistently shoot and be accurate at closer range than the crossbow. I believe it's an unfair advantage against bow hunters to lump crossbows with archers in the deer woods. 3. According to several MDC publications and news releases, the objective of putting crossbows out during the archery portion of deer season was to "recruit younger hunters into the sport" and to "aid the older less physical people that do not have the physical conditioning to use typical archery equipment." MDC used to issue permits for physically handicapped and to people that didn't possess they physical capability of drawing back typical archery equipment by special permit (I remember this being in place from the mid 1980's through the mid 1990's). Why doesn't MDC use this special permit system rather than open the floodgates to allow anyone who wants to involve crossbows in the archery portion of the deer season. In fact, monitoring permits purchased by crossbow users during the archery portion of the deer system would probably trend towards just the opposite age group you are targeting and would result in higher permit purchases by the age groups between the very young and older deer hunters MDC is attempting to target. In conclusion, I feel MDC will increase harvest during the archery deer season on the deer age and sex group we should be protecting for increased recruitment due to CWD, EHD and BT by using crossbows. I believe the age groups of hunters you profound to be targeting will be overshadowed by other age groups seeing the unfair advantages of using crossbows during the archery portion of the deer season. Crossbows should be retained as a legal method during the firearms portion of the deer season. I do not support the

regulation change to include crossbows during the archery portion of deer season. Respectfully,
K.D. Macon County Landowner

Comments on 2016 Deer Season Regulations regarding the CWD Containment Area: I appreciate the opportunity to submit comments on the current CWD containment area (CWD-CA) that was depicted prior to and on March 10, 2015 as per MDC publications and news releases. In discussions with MDC personnel at a recent Deer Regulations open house, it was revealed that MDC is contemplating a 25 mile buffer around current and new CWD epicenters. I believe this to be an excessive distance to buffer for surveillance of additional CWD specimens. Currently, Wisconsin and Iowa use 10 mile and 15 mile surveillance buffers, respectively with some success of CWD containment. As an MDC employee for 26.5 years, I had the opportunity to manage intensively managed tracts involved with public use (ex., Swan Lake NWR, Eagle Bluffs CA, and Four Rivers CA). During this time, I obtained a strong sense of public opinion and the support or non-support for MDC policies. I get the sense from talking to several colleagues of mine who fall within the CWD-CA that we are hampered to manage the deer herds on our property due to no antler point restrictions and making artificial congregation of deer for deer herd analysis illegal (off-season baiting). There are numerous landowners in close proximity to my property who feel similarly that MDC is hampering our ability to reach deer herd potential either solely or collectively due to the county-wide CWD-CA. We recognize that the transmission of CWD is accelerated when deer are artificially congregated, but with CWD specimens found in excess of 30 miles from our properties per your datum, we feel this is an unfair and penalizing restriction on our deer herd management and analysis capabilities. My property in southeast Macon County is 160 acres and a little over 30 miles from the current Macon County epicenter. I will have spent over \$500,000 on property purchase and infrastructure improvements to manage for white tailed deer, eastern wild turkey, grey and fox squirrels and soon a restored marsh for season use by migrating water birds. I feel that my being 30 miles from the epicenter, even if a 25 mile CWD-CA is imposed by MDC, will adversely affect my ability to conduct quality deer management when county-wide containment parameters are used. To my knowledge, in review of the limited data I have seen via MDC, EHD, and BT are the only vectors that have shown to be "local" in nature at worse. I believe my following suggestions can be effective in issuing and maintaining a CWD-CA: 1. Establishing a CWD-CA based on the MoDOT road system would provide a more sensitive boundary. MoDOT parameters and boundaries are more enforceable, easily discernable to hunters and more easily recognized than county lines. I have submitted a recommendation of a MoDOT CWD-CA (see attached). 2. The use of county lines, in my opinion, are too "coarse" in an effective CWD-CA and the use of adaptive management with MoDOT road systems can either shrink or enlarge the CWD-CA as specimen data reveals the CA is growing or shrinking. This seems to work very well with MDC's waterfowl hunting zones regulating harvest and monitoring with bird chronology. Why doesn't it work for a CWD-CA? 3. I believe that MDC deer regulations enforced within the CA are unfair to the management capability of the property I have solely invested in and will manage for a quality deer herd. I have documented nine and 12 individuals

in 2012 and 2013 respectively that utilize my property as a "core" area per six trail cams applied year round. This accounts for a manageable deer herd of approximately 40 deer per square mile as a recognized metric for QDHM. MDC's regulations are adversely effecting my land to reach its potential by imposing no antler point restrictions and offer the ability for neighbors to over-harvest deer sex and age classes essential in deer herd recruitment. This is a common QDHM technique. In conclusion, I feel MDC is using "too large and coarse by metric" boundaries for CWD-CA. The use of MoDOT road systems would be more recognizable, enforceable and would have the ability to adapt to increases or decreases of CWD incidences by specimen examination by either cull killing or hunter submission. The lack of antler point restrictions hurt our ability to attain maximum potential in allowing deer to age to their maximum antler potential and the ability to pass on these genetics when others have the mentality "if it's brown...it's down." I recommend the use of the MoDOT road system for CA and the re-issuance of antler point restriction outside the new CWD-CA. Respectfully, K.D. Macon County Landowner

Move November portion back after main rut! (Dec 5th). Maintain the timing of the November portion and reduce the length to nine days - NO. Expand the late youth portion to three days, beginning the first Friday after Thanksgiving - YES. Reduce the length of the antlerless portion to three days, beginning the first Friday in December - NO. Eliminate the urban zones portion - YES. Allow crossbows as legal method during the archery deer and turkey season - NO. Reduce the limit of antlered deer during the archery season to one - YES. Simplify conservation area regulations by limiting methods and use of firearms and archery antlerless permits - YES. 1. We need to double non-resident tags! 2. Firearm season to wait till after rut!! I love Kansas regulations!

Department of Conservation, Dear Sir, I have just been reading the Sun Gazette Paper in Fulton, Mo. The problem of deer in our country the sportsman for deer and wild life are slowly becoming terrible people. God put wildlife for a meal, (our daily life) or bread. Now every deer has become a trophy for the pick. We must stop this situation. One deer per family. No antler hunter, unless the deer they kill has antler which they are allowed to kill for meat. To train our children to respect animals, not train them to kill and hurt them - for them to kill for fun will make them a terrible person. No love or respect. The elephant are being killed for ivory. What a SIN. They are beautiful animals and some have babies which are left to suffer and die. I was taught as a child to respect and love animals - especially wildlife and not kill for fun! I hope these meetings and letters will help these hunters to be humble and respectful sportsmen. Sincerely yours, F.D.C. Thank you!

I do not have a computer and live in rural Osage County, I have never gone online in my life and have no desire to do so. I read about the changes being considered for deer hunting regulations for 2016-2017 season in the J.C. News Tribune Newspaper. I am a 65 year old male who has not missed a deer season hunting since 1977 so yes, I consider myself a hunter. 1. I think the starting time for November Firearms Deer Season is perfect, please do not change the starting time of that season and I have no problem with either leaving it at 11 days or reducing to 9 days. 2. Expanding and changing dates of late youth portion - NO I disagree with having any youth

seasons period. First of all, if some of the young kids you see picture with a nice buck really shot a high powered deer rifle then we have a serious safety situation in the woods. Youth season only gives adults who are not true dedicated deer hunters the chance to go out and shoot a nice buck before us true hunters get the chance. If an adult wants to truly introduce a new hunter to hunting they will do as I did. I have 2 daughters who went along with me on normal opening day and many other days of deer season but they never fired my rifle until I decided they could do so safely. They only killed their 1st deer with my guidance when I considered they could do so safely and yes they both are deer hunters yet today, and true good safe hunters. You already have the youth with their adults in the woods at the very best time of the deer hunting period, we do not need the late youth season longer and at the possibly next best time to be deer hunting. 3. I am 100% in agreement with reducing length of antlerless deer season or better yet, just eliminate the antlerless portion all together. Especially in my part of Osage County. I see less deer now where I am hunting and have hunted every year since 1977, than I ever have at any time. 4. I 100% agree with the elimination of the urban deer season portion. 5. Archery Methods: I am a disabled army veteran, I could have had a permit to use a crossbow during archery season all my hunting years. I received my disability in 1973. I worked with this disability for 35 years at the US Postal Service. It was a constant struggle every day to deal with the pain in my right shoulder and the weakness and I did not want to take any chances doing any activity in my off time and then not be able to continue my job and provide for my family and myself. I struggled throughout my entire working life and never asked for any special favors due to this disability, but after retiring I had no worry about being able to work every day and I have always loved to go deer hunting every chance I could fit in with my busy career at the post office. I was at the VA hospital in Columbia one day for annual checkup and I asked my doctor if I could get some kind of therapy on my shoulder, service connected disability, because deer season was coming up and he is also a long time deer hunter he said do you hunt archery and I said No, it is a struggle to just go during firearm season. Then my VA doctor said would you like to be able to use a crossbow during the archery season? I asked why and he said your right shoulder service connected disability qualifies you to have a hunting methods special permit to use a crossbow to go deer hunting during the archery season. My doctor said the crossbow would actually be better method for my shoulder disability than my rifle. My VA doctor wrote me the prescription I needed and I went to the conservation office in Columbia and they give me the lifetime permit to use a crossbow during archery season. I have always truly enjoyed deer hunting but I would never have had time before I retired to use the crossbow but now that I am retired and have no job responsibilities it is awesome to be able to go out deer hunting legally from Sept. 15 to Jan 15th. I think it would be a total slap in the face to me and all the disabled veterans out there who have done as I and worked with their disabilities all their lives and now can have a special permit that they have earned by their service and now you are considering allowing everybody this special privilege. I am and always will be 100% not in favor of allowing everybody to go deer hunting with a crossbow. I think this should always be a right given to only those dedicated lifetime hunters who have a true doctor approved condition to qualify them to have this special hunting methods exemption. 6. I think if you truly want to get more active involved in deer

hunters then you must keep those buck tags = 1 before and 1 after firearms season in every archery method used. The true, dedicated, ethical deer hunters who actually love the sport want to have as many days actually hunting with a legal buck tag in his pocket as possible. I think the big percentage of archery hunters will kill that 1 buck before firearms season and they hunt the firearms season and then their done hunting and you will lose a lot of your deer no's management tool in areas with large deer populations but that would not be my area. As I said before I have less deer than ever before. Sincerely, A.H.

I am writing you this letter in response to comments on Deer Management and Regulations changes. It is my opinion and that of my friends who are real bow hunters that is why we call it archery season. If you are worried about kids or enabling adults, go rabbit or squirrel hunting. If you want to hunt with a crossbow, do it in gun season, muzzle hunting is a special time and Missouri land is to populated to take on three times as many new hunters. The number of big bucks of 4 to 5 years of age will most certainly be nonexistent. It is hard enough now to kill mature bucks, with as many bow hunting as we have and to double or triple the number would be a huge mistake, just like the otters.

MDC - I would like to comment on the proposed regulation changes for the archery season. I am against changing the antlered deer limit from 2 to 1. The late season is tough, and having the second buck tag is what keeps a lot of us out there in the tree stands. Bowhunter for life P.R.

Hello: I retired and moved to Missouri about ten years ago. One of my many pleasures is deer hunting with a muzzle-loading rifle. I often see wild turkeys on our property. I've often wished that I could hunt turkey with one of my muzzle loading rifles. I personally don't have any interest in purchasing a modern "Magnum" shotgun. Rather, I would find great pleasure in trying my luck with one of my small caliber traditional muzzle loading rifles. I understand the safety concerns in using a solid lead projectile. (Some of those Black Powder deer rifles are very powerful.) This kind of firearm would be unsuitable for turkey. I wish to propose the following rule change: For Hunting Wild Turkey: A muzzle-loading rifle of .36 to .45 caliber using a single patched round lead ball be permitted. A .36 lead ball weighs approximately 70 grains and a .45 lead ball weighs approximately 130 grains. This caliber range should prove to be effective on turkey and not be overly destructive or dangerous. This proposed rule change would actually involve only a few hunters. These smaller caliber muzzle-loading rifles are not very common and would be more challenging than using a magnum shotgun. This rule change would allow traditional hunters a chance to take turkeys as our forefathers did many years ago. Thank you for your consideration. J.G.

Dear MDC: First of all I'm 65 years old. My dad told us kids, if it wasn't for MDC agents we wouldn't have nothing to hunt or fish for. This was around 55 years ago and he was right. I like deer season being cut back to 9 days, also like doe season cut to 3 days. However, I'm not in favor of youth season increase to 3 days. I know kid's should have the right to hunt, but in the Lebanon paper there are kids too small to hold a gun, let alone shoot it. I know some kids do shoot, but most youth deer gets shot by dads or grandpas. Anyway that's what I think. We live on the back side of Bennett Springs State Park. We use to have lots of deer and turkey. We

could look out the windows a few years ago and see 8 to 12 deer about any night. Now we hardly ever see any deer in the yard any more. Hunting season 2013 maybe seen 15 deer. Hunting season 2014 maybe 8 deer. I think one reason, there's not many deer to see is bobcats are eating the baby. Hardly even see a baby deer anymore. I think MDC does a really good job. The Laclede Co. Agents are great. Keep up the good work. This is my 2 cents worth. Thank you! J.H.

Let me thank you in advance for your time as well as your consideration of the topic regarding "Non-Resident License Fees". From my perspective there are two categories of "non-Resident Hunters": Non-Resident property owners and everyone else. As you might have guessed I am and have been for the past 15 years a Non-Resident property owner. I miss the financial consideration once given to property owners regardless of their residency. To not distinguish between the two when charging license fees is a flawed policy. Property owners pay taxes and at least in my case, work hard to develop the land to promote a variety of conservation practices. As an example I have converted 20 acres of my property "In perpetuity" to a wetland. I know I have strayed from the topic but it provides some added background for my disappointment in the current policy.

Here are my comments on the proposed changes in deer hunting regulations. Reducing the firearms season from 11 to 9 days will have no significant impact. You have the data on how many deer are harvested on those last two days. Moving the second youth firearms deer season would definitely increase the deer kill. it is my belief that the youth deer season is often used by "dad" to kill another deer. I'm sure having it in January decreases participation. Reducing the antlerless portion would decrease the doe kill which at this point would be a good thing. I am adamantly opposed to allowing crossbows during the archery season. There are provisions in the regulations if you are disabled. This change could have a big impact on the archery deer kill. Look how the archery kill has increased over the years. It could have a large impact on public hunting areas and the behavior of deer as the woods are overrun with hunters. Archery season should be for those who put in the time and effort to use archery equipment. If archery numbers were decreasing crossbows could be justified but that is not the case. Once you open the door to crossbows it would be hard to change back. Crossbows should be allowed in urban areas and management hunts where keeping deer numbers in check is important. If you are so concerned about declining deer numbers it makes no sense to introduce crossbows where it would be easier take a deer in the archery season. On one hand you propose to allow it to be easier to harvest a deer by allowing crossbows and increasing hunter participation. On the other hand you propose to limit archery buck harvest to one per hunter which would decrease the deer harvest. These proposals seem to contradict each other. If you want to encourage young hunters to participate in the archery season then allow crossbows for those less than 12 years of age or whatever age you believe they could competently draw a regular bow. Your deer data will tell you how many hunters kill two bucks during the archery season. I don't know if it is a problem. I have a proposal that will address the issue harvesting two bucks in the archery season. Allow one antlered archery tag on your first archery permit. Give archers the option to buy a second

antlered archery tag. But if they buy a second antlered archery tag they are not eligible to purchase a firearm's any deer permit. And they can't buy a second antlered archery tag after they have purchased a firearm's any deer permit. Give the hunters the option of how they want to hunt. The second antlered archery permit could be used before the firearm's season, not restricted to only after the firearm's season. Nonresidents would not be eligible for the second buck tag. You have the resources to keep track of this. After several years you can evaluate how it's working. I believe the non-resident permits are too cheap. The cost should be based on what other states are charging. And by the way I think it is time you increase resident permits also. We are getting a great deal. Again look at what other states are charging. Why do you allow unlimited doe archery permits? That makes no sense. Again you have the data to know how many hunters kill multiple does but I know hunters who kill 4 or 5 does a year. With deer populations down you need to change the limit. You could use my proposal on archery bucks for does also. Allow one doe permit for the archery season and if you choose to buy a second you forfeit the chance to harvest a doe during the firearm's season. Urban areas would be exempt from these restrictions. G. L.

Hello, my name is K. V. I would like to say I am very pleased with MDC taking information from the residents/hunters of the state to manage our deer herd. I strongly support these changes that MDC is looking at for the 2016-2017 season. I have one thing that has always concerned me and would like for you (MDC) to look at. I would like to see the state take a change, when it comes to Out of State Hunters. Possibly adopt the Iowa rules and regulations (fees) etc. in our own state. Some form of lottery for non-resident hunters. I own one tract of land in Callaway County and lease a 200 acre farm as well in Callaway County. We have 2 farms within a mile each direction of our farms that have groups from other states. We refer to these groups as the. If it brown its down. They do not help us manage the herd what so ever. I believe that most non-resident hunters are alike, after meeting several groups that are non-resident over the years on these lease farms near us. Thank You, K.V.

Gentlemen: I have read the list of changes you are suggesting for the 2016-17 year. As a hunter in Missouri for 60 years I have seen many changes from a Three day season to the current group of seasons. My opinion is that the 4 point rule has helped by getting better quality bucks and has made the hunting much safer now that hunters must verify the deer before shooting. The only change I would like to see is to start the alternate season starting Dec. 3 through Dec. 11, 2016 and the antlerless season to run for three days Dec. 17-18-19, 2016. If you didn't get your buck during the Firearms season, you have a better chance if there is a second rut. I no longer archery hunt but may consider hunting with a crossbow if legal. I am 76 but do not have any disability that would allow me an exemption. I feel the Archery season could be limited to end Dec. 31, 2016. G.F.B.

Dear Sirs: If you want to cut back on the gun season it's alright as long as you cut back on the bow hunting season like Oct. 15 to Jan 1 or limit the number of deer killed in seasons combined or make late muzzle loader season hunt during the regular gun season.

MDC - Yes, allow crossbows for deer during archery season. J.H.

To Whom It May Concern: I've read the proposed changes and I'm happy to say I agree with all except: Please consider dropping the doe season all together. Reducing it to 3 days is a step in the right direction but why not eliminate it all together and give the deer a break. They are hunted in one season or another for almost 3 1/2 months and eliminating this unneeded doe season may be the right thing to do. Please consider this recommendation. M. K.

I write to comment on proposed changes to the Regulations for the 2016-17 deer season. I have hunted the cedar grove area since 1967. Deer numbers are down. Protect the does from non-harvest and for a 3-4 year period consider an antler restriction in our area. thank you! J.H.

I feel that crossbows should be included in the archery deer and turkey season to allow more opportunity for the senior hunter and with the advanced technology of today's compound bows how can crossbows be looked down on. Thank you! G.W.

1. Yes, maintain current November season. Yes, anything that will help more of our youth get out into the field and give them more opportunity with better weather. 3. Reduce antlerless from 12 days to 3 days. No - 6 days would give everyone a good chance. 4. No comment on urban zones. I live in Lincoln County. 5. Yes, reduce archery to one buck only. 6. Permit fees - do what you have to do - your fees are fair. A raise won't hurt, considering the great job you do. Please note - Tim McDaniel and Kevin Eulinger are the finest agents I have ever known. Glad to have them in Lincoln Co. K.E.

The new proposed changes for deer hunting regulations 2016-17 are fine with me. I have been wanting the crossbow regulation change for sometimes, especially for hunters 65 years old and older. The permit fees for non-residents should stay the same. Thanks for all the hard work you do. Sincerely, J.D.

After reading your proposed changes they sound very reasonable in reducing the length of the season in light of the state of the deer population. However, I do have some concerns about making it legal to use a crossbow during the archery season. Since there are many types of crossbows please describe which ones would be legal and why. Are crossbows used during the firearm season? Also I would like to comment on the situation of landowners who do not wish to have hunters on their posted property. Unfortunately even though my property is posted no hunting and no trespassing people do both. My fences and gates are damaged and I find lots of trash on my land and outside along my fences. Plus the trail cameras I have installed are routinely stolen. I realize that hunting is a big business and the Department of Conservation does everything to support it but wish the department would also put more emphasis on respecting the private landowner. Are there any laws or regulations regarding shooting a gun or some type of bow next to property you do not owe or allowed to hunt on? I do not feel safe on my own property (80 acres) with all the shooting going on. Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Sincerely, J.L.

We own 76 acres in Crawford County and work hard on our deer herd. Summary of changes for the 2016-17 deer season under consideration - Yes - Maintain the current timing of the Nov portion and reduce the length to 9- days. No - Expand the late youth portion to 3 days beginning the first Friday after Thanksgiving. Yes - reduce the length of the antlerless portion to 3 days and

begin on the first Friday in December. No - Eliminate the urban zones portion. Archery season changes - Yes - allow crossbows as a legal method during the archery deer and turkey season. Yes - Reduce the limit of antlered deer during the archery season to 1. Yes, Simplify conservation area regulations by limiting methods and use of firearms and archery antlerless permits. Thanks you for all your hard work? J.P./A.P

Suggestions for Deer Hunting: A total of two does instead of unlimited number of does for archery season. Only does should be allowed during the early youth season in order to give all hunters the chance to take trophy bucks. The late youth season they would be allowed to take bucks or does. I appreciate your consideration on the above. Thank-you.

Dear Sirs: Heartily agree with your consideration of crossbow access for all archers in the State. Several neighboring States allow crossbow activity already. Much more to the point....the crossbow is a much more humane method for taking a deer or turkey....less chance of poor arrow placement. Appreciate your consideration. Sincerely, P.M. Current Crossbow License

To Whom It May Concern: I am writing to state my input on the shortening of the MO Deer Season. Yes, please shorten it. Years ago we would see a lot of does down our dirt road, now very few. I live in Barton county. I think disease and poaching is the reason very few are seen. The season should never have been extended. The season now is way too long. My father tells of years ago where very few deer were here. Too much greed from man, like the beaver and buffalo. Just because one year some may say there are a lot of deer doesn't mean it will always be that way. I would rather even see the gun season to be only 7 days myself. My boyfriend has found several dead deer close to ponds the last few years. We think because of disease. I also would like the buck limit to decrease. Also, I agree with the new proposals. I also do not feel it is right for people to get tags in all their family's names. I know for fact some get deer tags in their wives names and the wives don't even hunt. This is not right. I think there should be a limit per household on tags. I also have seen grown-ups get a youth tag and act like the youth shot a deer when they were the one who shot it. Too much greed from mankind. If the deer becomes extinct, like other animals it will be the fault of greedy mankind. We called on some poaching a couple years ago. Nothing was ever done on the matter. We learned it doesn't help to call. Nothing is ever done. I also think the limit of deer killed per hunter should be reduced. I feel if things are not changed, there will be no deer left. It was like that in the olden days. I would hate to see the deer end up like the beaver and the buffalo. K.C.

Dear Coordinator: I am writing concerning the new proposed deer hunting regulations. We have been farmers in Scotland County Missouri for many years and our whole family enjoys hunting. The new proposed regulations concerning allowing the use of crossbows and extending youth season are good ideas. However, shortening doe season is not. We have as many or more deer in our area now then we have ever had as I witness in my outdoor activities. Our family killed eight deer this past season, and there are still too many for the land can support without damage to crops and vehicles. Recently, my son saw 41 deer in two groups within a one mile stretch of roadway. Just yesterday, I saw 40 or 50 deer as I traveled within a few miles of my home. Last weekend, I witnessed over 50 in one bunch in Scotland County. Each year we estimate a cost of

three or four thousand dollars in crop damage to our corn, beans and alfalfa hay. Perhaps the greatest lose was in 2014 as deer numbers continue to rise. A local auto repair owner says he has seen an excessive number of deer damaged vehicles this winter. There were more deer harvested in Missouri this last season then in the last several years even with the cut back in tags issued. Surely, you are checking with game wardens in our area, but perhaps you should ask farmers, insurance companies, and auto repair businesses about the numbers of deer. I see you have meetings to get input about regulations in many large cities. I would think it would be feasible to have meetings in rural areas where more people who spend time outdoors can testify to the number of deer in their area. Thank you for your consideration of my thoughts and concerns. Yours truly, K.C.

For whatever it's worth here is my opinion on the proposed changes in the deer regulations. First of all maybe do not change anything, leave well enough alone. I read your numbers and facts on the declining deer population or maybe just below the desired number of individuals. My observed deer population in extreme Northern Missouri Mercer and Harrison Counties looks to be too many deer and maybe too large of a population. But anyway here is what I think about the proposed changes: 1 Reducing the length of the firearms season is fine, most hunting is done by the end of the second weekend. But, people and business still are making money and need some hunters around to help their business. There are still some people hunting up to the close of the riffle season! 2 There is not that much participation in the youth season either way! And making it at a different time or one day longer is not going to change anything. I say leave it the same, the same numbers of youth are going out anyway, there is no need to make it longer or move that dates around. The parents are the one's determining the amount of participation and (also a fair amount of the shooting and harvesting of the deer)! 3 A shorter antlerless portion is okay, but what if the one weekend has bad weather and instead of 6-10% deer harvest for the riffle season it is only 1-2%? Not a lot of hunting is going on but some, and business are still open for whatever hunters that are around. I have no opinion on the urban zone stuff since I only hunt in the very sparsely populated counties. 5 Archery hunting is no for everyone, and success is very low, and that is fine! There is no need to allow crossbows for everyone to use, it fine to let the old and handicap use them but that is it!! Archery hunting is about almost, hopefully, and only if the deer would have! Crossbows will make it too easy and add a lot more people the woods during archery season and there is no need for that. But maybe since crossbows have a scope and a trigger add it to the ALTERNATIVE METHOD FOR RIFFLE SEASON, that only makes sense. 6 The archery season is 4 months long and that is great there is a lot of time to get out and hunt. Having the chance and I do mean a chance to get a buck before and after riffle season is great. I have never filled both my buck archery tag in a season and would think that only 5-10% of archery hunters actually fill both tags! It is nice to maybe get a doe or a buck in Sept and still have that chance in Dec. as well. The season is so long what if you get a nice buck in Sept and still have that chance in Dec. as well. 1 The season is so long what if you get a nice buck in Sept now 4 more months of the season is still left; yes you can still go and be doe only but why!! The setup is great the way it is, a chance for one buck before and after rifle season.

Most people are not over harvesting bucks during archery season; one buck would be great two is very unlikely anyway!!! Sincerely, S.K.

Dear Sir: As an avid deer hunter for years, this last year was by far the worst year I've ever hunted. I personally been hunting deer for 40 plus years. I bow, rifle and muzzleload hunt and saw a deer during archery season. I hunted 4 days in rifle season and 6 days muzzleload season and never saw a deer. My brother and son also hunted 4 days rifle season and they too never saw a deer. We as a group of 5 killed 1 deer this year and 1 deer last year, that being a doe both years. I am very unhappy with your measures of so called managing deer populations. I am upset when I cannot take my son and grandson hunting or even watch deer and see none. I am upset that MDC has influence from farmers and special interest groups that control your management responses. These farmers are some of the richest people in our county. They have over doubled their crop production in the last 20 years and grumble when they lose a couple of acres of crops per year. It is time for MDC to listen to hunters who pay for permits to funds your organizations. I hope to hear from you on the goals to increase deer populations to keep my son and grandson hunting. Thank-you! R.P.

Good Morning, This letter is intended to provide input to the decisions impacting future deer seasons. Attached are four suggestions and one opinion. One more thing I would like to express. The biggest single obstacle facing deer hunters is - gaining access to land where hunting is allowed by the landowner. There may not be a lot MDC can do about that. But I have found that some landowners will allow one to hunt IF the hunter promises to limit himself to archery or muzzleloading weapons/methods. MDC could liberalize deer hunting with these, and tighten restrictions on modern firearms and 10-shot capacities. Thanks for listening. Sincerely, G.S. Below are my suggestions - A ceiling - Put a ceiling on the number of permits issued to any one hunter. A few game-hogs currently kill a dozen or more deer - because they were allowed to buy that many MDC permits. Weapons/Methods - Allow four types of weapons/methods in the following sequence: Earliest, Traditional archery 2nd, Traditional & Modern archery. 3rd, Muzzleloading only. Last, Muzzleloading & Modern Firearms. Most states already open their deer season in that order, proceeding from weapons/methods with the most limitation to ones with highest success. One License per deer season - Currently a hunter must pay three ways to participate in the entire deer season. Pay for archery hunt. Pay for firearms hunt. Pay for managed hunt. Suggestion: One permit for each deer that may be harvested. AND the hunter may harvest that deer with any of the weapons/methods which are open. * Example: A hunter has one license for 2015. He has two permits. He hunts first with Traditional archery, then Modern, then Muzzleloading, then Modern firearms. However, whenever he fills his two permits he is done deer hunting in 2015, regardless of weapon used. Suggestion: Two Zones - N. Missouri Zone - Open Sept 22 and Close December 22. S. Missouri zone - Open October 1 and closes January 1. Suggestion: Opinions matter - Deer numbers must be low enough to be acceptable to farmers and ranchers. Deer numbers must be high enough to keep hunters interested, especially the younger hunters. Do not let antler-size determine how MDC will regulate deer season. Antlers are not the main reason we hunt deer over our lifetime.

November Portion 9 Days - ok Strongly agree. Youth Portion - Ok - Strongly Agree. Antlerless Portion Reduction - Ok - Strongly Agree - Eliminate Urban Portion - Ok - Neutral - Crossbows - NOT ok - Strongly Disagree. 1. If a person is physically able to hunt with a compound/recurve bow then they should. 2. Crossbows are for people with disabilities. 3. 50% of bowhunting is knowing when to draw your bow. Using crossbows takes this art out of the equation and demeans the spirit of "bowhunting". 4. I feel like this proposal is more about selling more tags which equals more money for MDC. Antlered deer for archery - Strongly Disagree. 1. Please don't make me kill a buck that I normally wouldn't take just because I only have 9 days to kill a potential second antlered deer during rifle season. 2. I can get on board with only a two buck limit if you let me choose my method. A. Offer me the opportunity to buy 3 antlered tags with the knowledge that I can only kill one buck with a rifle. If I don't kill a buck during rifle season offer me another archery tag. 2 Buck Limit - * One antlered deer before rifle season. * one antlered deer during rifle season. * one or two antlered deer after rifle season. I will be more than happy to pay for 3 tags. Let me fill 2 of them with the weapon of my choice. Thanks, E.L.

I am writing to you about the changes MDC is considering for the deer hunting season. I am a trophy hunter bowhunter/rifle hunter/muzzleloader hunter along with my kids hunting the youth season and my girlfriend that uses a crossbow with a permit. I am a landowner and also hunt public land for deer also. CROSSBOWS- I am for the crossbows being legal for anyone to use. I think that it gives younger and older people a chance to experience hunting at an earlier age and older age class. They are very accurate like a gun but have the distance of a bow. Some people don't practice with a bow like they should and with a crossbow would give them the confidence they need not to mention they could hunt when the weather is warmer out and not have to wait till gun season to shoot their deer. You can shoot them sitting on your butt with your back to a tree and be comfortable and don't have to worry about being scared of heights. There is nothing wrong with crossbows and not everyone would go out and buy one. The hardcore bowhunter are still gonna bowhunt with a bow. ONE BUCK LIMIT- I have hunted other states with a one buck limit and I think it is a good thing. I think we should go with a one buck limit throughout the whole deer season. That will make everybody a little pickier cause if you have a 2 buck limit there is going to be a lot of bucks (younger bucks) being killed during one of the seasons cause they will just shoot one with a bow and trophy hunt with a gun. Allowing crossbows is going to make the bow harvest go up a little guaranteed. There will be a lot more bucks being shot with a crossbow and I have no problem with that cause I'm for crossbows but I'm for a 1 buck limit too cause I want bigger bucks and if you only have 1 buck tag there is going to be a lot of deer (bucks) that got passed cause they think that there could always be a bigger one around the corner or with the cameras out there they know what's out there. I know that not that many people shoot 2 or even 3 bucks a year but with crossbows being legal the harvest will go up and buck harvest will too. A lot of people will shoot and do shoot a lesser buck with a bow than they would with a gun but with a 1 buck limit they will be forced to be pickier on what they shoot they only have 1 buck tag. If they want more deer meat they can always shoot a doe. Missouri is an awesome state and we have some of the best deer hunting and a very good place to kill a

buck of a lifetime in several places but would be even better place to do it if we only had a 1 buck limit. With a 1 buck limit it will force people to wait for a good one. Everyone wants a big buck and those who don't will shoot anything that is legal not all hunters are trophy hunters and not all are meat hunters but with a 1 buck limit it would be the best thing to do to help some of the bucks reach maturity and rifle hunters can't say bow and crossbow hunters are killing all the bucks. I love eating deer meat and I don't mind killing does and waiting for a big buck and one good buck is all I ever try to get. A 1 buck limit all the way through deer season is the way to go. A 2 buck limit will not change anything and especially if you allow crossbows which is a good thing cause the buck harvest will go up cause they are so accurate. **FIREARMS DEER SEASON-** Reducing the season by only 2 days will not change anything in the #'s of the deer harvest. So many people are done hunting by the second Sunday of deer season either by burn out/no more time off or tag out. The season needs to be anywhere between 3-7 days total that would increase the deer population reducing only 2 days especially a Monday and Tuesday is not and will not increase the deer population. Missouri's gun seasons are way too long. You say you want more mature bucks then you are going to have to get on board like our surrounding states like Kansas, Iowa and Illinois and limit the # of bucks or shortening the gun seasons or move them out of the rut. Split the gun season up in two different seasons like Illinois. That will increase deer #'s and people can get a crossbow to help fill their archery tags if they legalize those. No other state cares about a record kill. Like MO does. Plain and simple want bigger bucks and more of them. Shorten gun seasons and move out of the rut and only allow a 1 buck limit across the entire deer season. Shortening the gun season by two days that 70-80% of the hunters don't hunt anyway will not increase the deer #'s on population. Having the gun seasons over 7 days will always decrease the population in any state especially since we are allowed High powered rifles. Shorten the muzzleloader season make it only 1 weekend two days only and have it where you can use muzzleloading/shotguns and pistols and pistols being ones that do not use a rifle cartridge. Being able to use a centerfire cartridge out of a pistol is not a disadvantage some of these pistols can easily shoot 200-300 yards. How is that a disadvantage? It's not. Allowing the use of shotguns to be able to use during alternative method is a disadvantage cause they may be able to hold a few shells but don't shoot very accurately and almost everybody has a shotgun that they could shoot slugs out of that would get some people out to hunt the alternative season without them having to buy another gun. You guys even said it yourself talking about the antlerless season from 12-3 days will increase deer numbers. Same what needs to be done with our gun season 7 days max would give everybody a chance to get out there and hunt from Saturday to following Friday or have it from Monday-Sunday that would be even better. Also it would increase our deer population. **ANTLERLESS SEASON -** I think they should get rid of the antlerless season altogether whoever wants a doe can shoot it during regular season no need to have a special season for does. What is the point for a special season for does makes no sense shoot them during regular gun season. our deer go through enough stress with all of the long gun seasons we have no need for these long seasons everybody can find a way to hunt if they want without these long seasons. Stress is big factor on how deer can make it through the times of winter and with all those long seasons back to back is putting a lot of stress

on the deer herd. They need a break and getting rid of the doe season will help that. Insurance companies are always going to complain to MDC but who cares somebody's always going to complain about something can't please everybody just like me writing about my opinions but I feel the need to share my thoughts on these topics and they do have some good points in them. People want to kill does do it in the regular season cause it's not going to hunt anything when I first hunted we didn't have a doe season we shot does during the regular season. URBAN ZONES-If you get rid of the Urban Zones deer hunting season you can just allow more doe tags in the certain counties where the deer population is up and reduce the # of doe tags where there aren't as many deer. (Nothing wrong with this idea at all.) The State of Missouri probably needs to regulate the deer population by counties versus state wide regulations cause county by county is totally different on the deer population. Some places should have more doe tags and some not but again do it doing regular gun seasons. YOUTH SEASON - I like the youth season where they are at and I like that the youth have their own seasons but keeping them spread out is good and if you shorten gun season and alternative and get rid of antlerless season would be better for Thanksgiving youth season. We need to keep the youth involved in the hunting sport. I am a landowner and sometimes I hunt public land. I am a bowhunter/gun hunter and trophy hunter and my oldest daughter youth hunts and my girlfriend hunts with a crossbow on a permit so I feel that I can speak on just about all of these regulation changes. Please take careful notes on what the public wants cause if the right changes are made the state of Missouri can be right up there with our neighbor states Iowa/Kansas and Illinois. Missouri is not too far off all we need is some changes to help better manage the mature bucks and by doing so with the right changes can also increase the deer population and decrease the population in areas where needed. D.G.

As a land owner and hunter in Reynolds County I have some opinions on some of the proposed changes to the deer hunting regulations. As far as length of season I see no reason to shorten it to 9 days. Around my farm and in the county I see an abundance of deer. The youth season should be held after the regular season and limited to one season of three or four days. Too many adults are killing deer for the youth which just takes away from the regular deer season. Also regular deer season is the main money maker, so cater more to these hunters. Another thing, let archery hunters only kill one buck. Thank you for taking people's comments. E.P.

My name is F.S., After receiving my Mo Conservationist Magazine thru the mail, yesterday March 5 in the afternoon. I read that a meeting on March 5 in West Plains was being held too late for me to make. I have wrote two letters to MDC about hunting season. Then on page 6 - Regulation changes under consideration for 2016-2018. It irritated me when reading those proposed changes. How Foolish. I called several other hunters in our Church. We have been talking about this for some time. Here's what we came up with. 1. Not to shorten firearms season. Leave it as is. We only have eleven (11) days as it is. Archery season has one hundred and eleven days (111). This shows favoritism toward the bow hunters. We know that the Department has a responsibility to maintain, to continue to keep a deer heard and turkey population at its best. Let's build up our deer and turkey population, not tear it down. Turkey population in our area in decline on public hunting areas, we as land owners has done a better job

on keeping turkey population up by not shooting hens. 2. Do not allow crossbows during archery season. Leave it as now 3. Shorten archery season by thirty (30) days. Eighty (80) days is long enough. 4. Only one buck per hunter per year. Either one buck for bow or firearms seasons. One buck and two does should be enough for any sportsman (hunter) 5. No Hen turkeys harvested (shot) in fall season. Stop taking what builds up or Turkey population. 6. Leave late youth season as it is Now no Changes needed. Dad's take them during regular season. Why try to fix something, that is not broken. The Missouri Dept. of Conservation has done a good job till now. We want our children, and grandchildren to be able to enjoy what we have enjoyed all these years. Not just to talk about it as in the past when it becomes. I here turn to enjoy. If it's all gone or wasted then you have done injustice towards our children. Be Careful of what you do, the true sportsmen of Missouri are watching you. F.S.

Deer Regulation Comments - I support eliminating the second Monday and Tuesday of the regular firearms season. This season should always begin on the second Saturday of November - no exceptions. I support any shortening of the antlerless season, including its elimination. I do not support any additional days for the youth season "s". I do not support allowing crossbows for use during archery season. I do not have an opinion on the Urban Zones season or of limiting archery hunters to only one antlered deer. I do not support Conservation granting waivers to MDC for managed deer hunts at state parks outside of the regular seasons without requiring a determination of a significantly denser park population relative to the region and adjusted for habitat. Sincerely, T.P.

To Whom It May Concern and Commissioners: I want to begin by saying that I have personally hunted deer with family twice in the past four years. I think deer hunting can be great for building relationships, developing self-discipline, gratitude for creation, stewardship, and spirituality. It far exceeded my expectations. But one of the factors you consider is the interests and needs of other outdoor users. I ask you to consider the interests of hikers and back packers. I oppose scheduling a 3 day youth hunt for the Friday-Sunday after Thanksgiving because it will prevent me from enjoying my Friday after Thanksgiving tradition of hiking the Middle Fork Section of the Ozark Trail. The proposed change would also effect almost the entire Ozark Trail and significant portions of the Katy Trail unusable/dangerous for hikers for the Friday-Sunday after Thanksgiving. I ask you to consider holding a 3 day Youth Hunt for a weekend other than Thanksgiving and/or (b) have a 2 day Youth Hunt on Saturday and Sunday after Thanksgiving. If you go with option (a), kids will still be able to hunt after school on Friday, parents can take their kids out of school early or school districts in rural areas will adjust their schedules. Many districts close the first day of hunting season and many kids hunt with their parents on opening day even if it's a school day. Children can learn more from hunting than they would on a day in elementary or middle school, anyway. That's my opinion and I have an advanced degree. If you go with option (b) and do a Youth Hunt the Saturday and Sunday after Thanksgiving, that will harmonize the interest of encouraging family to hunt with children over the holiday with the needs of other recreational users/hikers. Hikers will still be able to enjoy their favorite areas on

the Friday after Thanksgiving. Please give serious consideration to my comments. Sincerely, E.D.

Re: Proposed new deer hunting regulations for 2016-2017. We are submitting this letter to voice our concerns regarding the upcoming proposals. This letter reflects the opinions of both myself and my husband. Therefore, any opinions of agreement or disagreement should be considered as two votes and not one. Our number one concern is that of non-resident fees. My husband and I are strongly against any type of increase. In fact, we feel there should be a decrease in fees for all non-residents who are both landowners and homeowners. We've owned property in Missouri since 1999. We currently own 240 acres and we have our home on that property. We spend approximately five months down here every year. While here we hunt (only on our own property), fish and enjoy all the beauty of nature that Missouri has to offer. We feel the revenue generated by the sales tax we pay during this lengthy time should account for something. It would not be fair for us to pay the same fee as resident but there should be some consideration given to those who are also homeowners. (like ourselves), we feel an increase in non-resident fees would definitely be unjustified. Hopefully, we will see some sort of decrease in non-resident fees especially where there is both land and home ownership. The second issue at hand is the proposal of decreasing the antlerless season from 12 days to 3 days and moving it to the first Friday in December. This would ultimately keep the out-of-state hunter from participation in this portion of the hunt. Many hunters would not be able to afford to stay in Missouri another week or more or go home and return just to hunt an additional three days. Another point to be considered would be the loss of revenue that the MDC would collect. The MDC would stand to lose all the revenue from the sales tax generated from the hunter's purchases (whether it be food, gas, lodging or hunting related items) during this time. The loss of sales tax revenue would also apply to another proposal - that being the elimination of two days from the firearms season. Potentially eliminating eleven days of hunting time would adversely affect all non-resident hunters. If these two proposals are passed the non-resident hunter will have less chance of harvesting a deer and will be paying a substantially higher per day cost to hunt. Elimination of hunting days would give the non-resident hunter less of a reason to hunt the woods of Missouri. My husband and I are strongly opposed to both issues regarding the elimination of hunting days. Perhaps an alternative to managing the deer population and not having the MDC lose sales tax revenue would be to keep the late youth season as it is (2 days and in January) and to issue fewer "free" resident landowner permits. Also changes in regulations and requirements for receiving the "free" permits might need to be considered. We are against archers taking two antlered deer during the archery season and we oppose the use of crossbows during the fall turkey and deer season. Our ultimate goal would be for hunters only harvesting one antlered deer - all seasons combined - no matter what method is used. Thank you in advance for considering my and my husband's opinions when making the final decisions regarding the outcome of all the proposals at hand. Sincerely, D. D. and G. D.

All sound good. Too few deer. Nonresident fees are too high. \$150.00

Archery Season - Crossbow is not archery, in the archery contest, shoots, Olympics archery you do not see a crossbow, (92% have a scope on it) and it should not be in an archery season, except for the medical problem people.

Ok for the following: Maintaining the timing of the November portion and reducing the length to nine days, expanding the late youth portion to three days, beginning the first Friday after Thanksgiving, reducing the length of the antlerless portion to three days, beginning the first Friday in December. Opposed to eliminating the urban zones portion. Allow crossbows as a legal method during the archery deer and turkey season - NO. Reduce the limit of antlered deer during the archery season - OK. Not enough information on the issue of Conservation Area Regulations and therefore no comment.

Dear Sir or to whom it might concern. My name is not important, but, what I have to say is. Growing up my family had to hunt for food if we wanted to eat. It was a way of life. I am 67 years old and have seen many changes in our conservation programs. Most good and some not so good. I am writing you because of the new proposals that are about to be made to our deer regulations. Please understand me right when I say I have seen our deer population grow from a few to where it is now and it was through hard work on all our parts. So I say thank you all. I am my family have always been meat hunters and that is not to say I would not like to have a big buck with a big rack. NO. But now days there are too many people out there that are only hunting for the TROPHYS and could care less for the animal or the meat. You know that is true. Some shot the animal, cut off the head and cape and leave the rest of the body. We now have regulations against that and they should be punished by law. But what about the animal that gave up its life. I have no use for trophy hunters, but, yes they bring money into Mo. They come in from out of state; buy their permits at a low cost and hunt our deer that took all of us so long to get their population up. If you want to do something and make new regulations then by all means make the out of state permits higher like other states do for us. Here are my comments on the new proposals I saw made in the Mo. Conservation Book for March 2015. I hope you understand what I am about to say. Most people have to work a job to make a living from Monday through Friday and cannot hunt on those days. That is why it is important to have weekend days for the average person to hunt. So a nine day firearm season is ok with me as long as you keep two weekends open. The youth hunt should stay at one weekend (two days) and NOT go to three days. I do think that the archery hunters should be limited to only ONE antlered deer per season. It is my opinion that there are too many archery seasons and that is not fair to the firearm people. They should be limited to a nine days season too. As for the antlerless firearm season going to three days, I think this is wrong, but I do think it should be four days. Two separate weekends. In Dec. crossbow regulations should be left as they are since they have firearm type sights. Please take this into consideration; I think there should be a senior firearm season for those over 60 just like the youth season before the regulation season. One weekend. Well that is all I have to say. Deer hunting is the only hunting I still do now along with my family and I want to thank all those people that make hunting fun and helped get our deer population back up to where it is now. It is a time when my sons get together with their old Dad and spend time together. Thank you for

reading what I had to say and GOD bless. Signed a concerned citizen and hunter of the great state of Mo. L.D.

PHONE CALL COMMENTS 2015

Crossbows - Not sure I agree with using them statewide, however, I think they are a great idea for urban hunting. Eliminate the urban zones portion - Against eliminating the urban zones portion. I was on the committee with Joel Porath for urban hunting in Maryland Heights. The deer will just multiply out of control if the urban zone portion is eliminated. People argue urban hunting is not safe. It is very safe for bows. Most hunters are in the tree shooting downward. It is safe and necessary. Thank you for taking time to allow me to comment.

Do not agree with shortening seasons. That will make it too difficult for people to find time to hunt. Eliminate youth season. Youth season is abused and very disruptive. The kids get bored hunting so the parents send them back to the camp site and they sit and shoot cans the rest of the day. It messes up the deer patterns because they are too loud. Allow youth to hunt during regular firearm season. Crossbows should not be allowed in archery with the exception of the disabled. Keep regulations the same.

Crossbows should only be allowed for the disabled. Since disabled individuals are not allowed to use some firearms, allowing non-disabled individuals to use crossbows and take away from disabled individuals is discrimination. Crossbows are dangerous to animals and humans. If you allow crossbows, you should require an intense training course. Conservation areas are extremely over-populated. High powered rifles should not be allowed on conservation areas. They should be shotgun, slug only. There are too many non-residents hunting on conservation land. There is too much drinking going on at conservation properties, especially those with lakes. Warsaw has too many people using the conservation land. Too many inexperienced, uneducated, and inconsiderate hunters on conservation land. Youth season is badly abused. There are way too many firearm seasons. There should only be 1 youth season. Firearm season is too long. I disagree with limited archery hunters to 1 buck. The department should be a leader, not a follower. Stop trying to copy surrounding states. Quit chasing revenue and do what's best for our herd. It is clear the department is not looking out for our wildlife, instead, they are making changes that bring in more money. Even conservation employees do not agree with these changes that are being proposed. The statistics given by the department are not believable. I frequently hunt an area that the department states the average buck is 150 class, I've never seen a 150 class buck in all the years I've hunter here. 90 class to 110 class at most. This is just a way for the department to bring in more non-resident hunters (for the money) because they think they will see and shoot a 150 class buck when in all actuality, they don't exist here. Then the area is filled with mostly out of state plates. Every year the department states - 'record kills this year' and that is B.S. Too many landowner permits are being issued.

Adamantly against adding crossbows to the archery season. Believes it will raise the number of wounded deer and also hurt our deer population. People participate in archer season for the challenge. Crossbows do not offer a challenge. If you allow crossbows, you might as well eliminate archery season all together and turn it into a month long rifle season. Crossbows are

loaded weapons that can shoot up to 100 yds., just as a rifle can. OK with reducing the length of November portion by 2 days. Ok with eliminating the urban zones portion for a while if it needs to be. Once numbers are better you could always bring it back if you wanted to. Instead of having 2 youth seasons, why not just have one youth season and make it 4 days. Could be during the early or late season, wouldn't make a difference. This would make it easier for parents who take their children further distances to hunt.

Do not agree with any changes. Mr. W consumes deer year round and feels changes will not allow him to harvest the deer he needs to sustain him through the year.

Appendix D. Online Comment Page Deer Management Comments

Send us your feedback on the Department's deer management plan, regulation considerations, and other deer management issues.

About You

Your Name: *

Your City:

Your ZIP Code: *

Gender: *

☐ Male

☐ Female

Do you consider yourself a hunter?: *

☐ Yes

☐ No

How did you hear about the open house?: *

☐ Newspaper

☐ Radio

☐ Conservationist Magazine

☐ MDC web site

☐ Social media

☐ Other website

- ☐ MDC employee
- ☐ Friend or neighbor
- ☐ Other

Comment

Deer Management Topic: *

Your Comment: *



Tell us your comments on this aspect of deer management. We hope to hear from a broad range of public interests.

Stay in touch

News about deer management:

- ☐ Yes, email me with news about MDC's deer management efforts.

Your Email:

Shortened URL

Permalink for this page: <http://mdc.mo.gov/node/28131>

Appendix E. Open House Handouts

MISSOURI WHITE-TAILED DEER MANAGEMENT PLAN



MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
(October 27, 2014)



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INTRODUCTION

The white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) is arguably the most important game species in North America. Additionally, the white-tailed deer is both socially and economically important to the citizens of Missouri. As Missouri's most popular game species with diverse citizen interest, the management of the white-tailed deer has a number of unique challenges that range from providing public viewing and hunting opportunities, to minimizing conflicts.

The white-tailed deer management plan was developed to outline the components of Missouri's deer management program and provide strategic direction for deer management in Missouri over the next 10 years. By clarifying the deer management goals and objectives of the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC), this plan provides an opportunity for critical input from Missouri citizens on the direction of deer management in Missouri. This plan outlines many activities that are already occurring and proposes new concepts to be evaluated during implementation of the plan. It does not outline operational details of the deer management program. Operational details (e.g., proposed regulation changes, research proposals, and work plan adjustments) of plan implementation will be evaluated within a structured decision making framework, and implemented through the appropriate processes.

Previous planning efforts have not been as comprehensive and goal focused as this plan. For example, the most recent 2004 Strategic Deer Plan's primary focus was to manage rapidly growing populations, which at the time was a major challenge of managing Missouri's deer herd. The complexity of challenges to deer management in Missouri continues to increase over time. Existing and future challenges include, but are not limited to: managing deer in urban areas; public versus private land deer management; changing hunter attitudes, preferences, and demographics; changing land use practices; and disease threats such as chronic wasting disease. Ultimately, there is no optimal condition for deer management only a series of alternative strategies that have some predictable and some unpredictable outcomes. Therefore, identifying deer management goals and priorities is a critical first step in establishing the foundation for the future of deer management in Missouri.

This plan outlines four primary goals that incorporate the current priorities for deer management in Missouri: 1) Proactively manage for balanced deer populations below the biological and social carrying capacity within the defined management units at levels acceptable for agriculture, ecosystems, and other impacts using science-based wildlife management practices; 2) Provide opportunities for all citizens to enjoy deer-related recreational activities, and promote deer hunting as a socially and culturally important tradition that is the primary tool to achieving the deer population goal; 3) Ensure the maintenance of a healthy deer population, and minimize the threat and impacts of diseases on the deer populations in Missouri; 4) Provide information to the public about all aspects of deer biology and management in Missouri, and create opportunities for additional public engagement in the decision making process regarding the management of Missouri's deer resource.

MISSOURI DEER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM REVIEW

In preparation for the development of the white-tailed deer management plan a thorough review of existing information, identification of management challenges and assessment of the current status of white-tailed deer management in Missouri was conducted. A summary of that information can be found within the *White-tailed Deer Management Program Review*.

HISTORY OF WHITE-TAILED DEER IN MISSOURI

Pre-1930's – Decline of the Missouri Deer Herd

Pre-settlement, white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) were found throughout the state with the highest densities occurring in northern Missouri. Like many wildlife species in the latter half of the 19th century, deer numbers declined with European settlement of Missouri. The decline occurred at a time when humans were impacting the Missouri landscape at a scale never before experienced. Throughout much of Missouri, forests were cut, most accessible land was grazed or farmed, and humans were scattered on small parcels across the rural landscape. The decline in deer numbers resulted partly from the dramatic human-induced environmental changes and overexploitation as a result of local consumption and market hunting.

Deer population declines became evident by the 1870's, and local statutes were instituted to try and stem the decline. The first statewide legislation aimed at protecting the deer population did not occur until 1874 when a 9-month closed season on deer was imposed. However, market hunting continued causing further population declines. With no provisions for enforcement of the laws, early legislation was largely ineffective. The first effective law was implemented in 1905 (Walmsley Law), which reduced the deer season to 2 months. Does and fawns were protected year round. The Walmsley Law also provided for the first paid game wardens, however, this law suffered setbacks and was repealed in 1907. Deer numbers continued to decline to a low of approximately 400 deer in 1925 when the deer season was completely closed. Wildlife refuges were acquired and for the first time, and deer from other states were brought in for restocking.

1930's-1980's – Restoration of the Missouri Deer Herd

The white-tailed deer has proven to be adaptable to human activities and in spite of human impacts on Missouri landscape, deer populations have recovered and even taken advantage of the changes. However, population recovery would not have occurred without a change in public attitudes toward wildlife. Early efforts to stem the decline in deer populations through regulation generally failed because of a lack of public support. In the early twentieth century, attitudes toward wildlife shifted from a utilitarian to a more conservation oriented emphasis. Citizens recognized their impacts on wildlife and began supporting efforts to protect and restore many wildlife species. As a result, the stage was set for recovery of many species when the Missouri Department of Conservation was formed and modern day wildlife conservation began.

The state legislature reopened the deer season in 1931 for bucks only which remained in effect until 1938 when the newly formed Conservation Commission closed the season. Although there had been some small increases in deer numbers since the low in 1925, the creation of the Department of Conservation and the Conservation Commission initiated the first significant and successful efforts to restore many wildlife species, including deer. In 1938, the first Conservation Commission put into place several programs aimed at protecting and restoring many of Missouri's game species, including deer. Enhanced wildlife law enforcement, an expanded refuge program, control of unwarranted fires and over-grazing, progressive timber and wildlife habitat management, public conservation education programs, and an aggressive deer trapping and relocation effort were all important steps in restoring the state's deer population. These efforts stimulated rapid growth of the deer population, and by 1944 there were an estimated 15,000 deer in Missouri. As a result, the Conservation Commission established the first modern day firearms hunting season in 1944. The first archery season was a 3-day hunt held in 1946, and only included one county with no deer harvested using archery equipment until 1950. The first statewide archery season was held in 1963.

Deer management at the time was relatively simple because the primary objective was to increase deer populations, which could be accomplished primarily by protecting does from harvest. In Missouri, early

deer biologists realized the importance of population management and the role of doe harvest on population growth. In a proactive response to a rapidly increasing deer population, the harvest of antlerless deer was initiated in 1951. The early initiation of antlerless harvest proved beneficial as population goals evolved from rapid deer population growth to stabilization. Hunters in states with long histories of restrictive doe harvest were much more reluctant to harvest does resulting in many deer populations exceeding both their biological and social carrying capacities. Missouri's history of having hunters accustomed to shooting does made population management much easier as deer numbers increased. As a result of a growing deer population, the firearms deer season and hunting regulations were continually evolving, particularly the liberalization of doe harvest.

1980's-Present – Stabilization of the Missouri Deer Herd

By the late 1980's deer populations across much of the state had been well established and were growing rapidly. This era of rapid population growth was met with increasing liberalization of regulations and expanding hunting opportunities. Prior to 1988, hunters were only allowed to harvest one deer during the firearms season, but in 1988, hunters were issued 1-2 additional antlerless deer on bonus permits in several management units throughout the state. Then starting in 2004 hunters were issued unlimited antlerless permits in many management units in the northern, central and western parts of the state. All of these changes were intended to address issues related to growing deer populations and have been effective at stabilizing deer populations in many parts of rural Missouri.

Traditionally deer management has focused on increasing deer numbers at a large geographic scale which was relatively simple to accomplish through limited harvest quotas. Now that populations have been established statewide, our focus has shifted to establishing and achieving localized population goals which are influenced by environmental and social factors. As a result of the complexity of these interrelated factors, the delicate balance of managing deer populations at biologically sound and socially acceptable levels is more difficult than past management efforts.

CURRENT STATUS OF WHITE-TAILED DEER IN MISSOURI

White-tailed deer populations are well established throughout Missouri with an estimated statewide population of greater than one million deer. Regional deer densities and herd demographics in Missouri have changed greatly over the last several decades. Changes in regulations have resulted in stable or reduced deer populations in many parts of north, west, and central Missouri. Additionally, implementation of the antler-point restriction and shifting hunter preferences for older bucks in the population has resulted in a shift in the composition of harvest, resulting in changing demographics of the deer herd in north, west, and central Missouri. Across much of south Missouri deer populations continue to slowly grow with changing hunter selectivity slowly shifting the sex and age structure of the population, but deer populations in southern Missouri are largely below biological and social carrying capacity.

DEPARTMENT DEER PROGRAM MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the deer program is to use science-based wildlife management to maintain biologically and socially balanced deer populations throughout the state that provide recreational opportunities, and minimize human-deer conflicts and the potential for negative impacts on ecosystem health.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The *Missouri White-tailed Deer Management Plan* has been developed to provide long-term strategic goals that direct management of the white-tailed deer in Missouri. This plan presents a series of goals,

objectives, and strategies for managing Missouri's deer herd in the future. The goals of this plan should remain relatively constant over time; however, objectives and strategies may need to be altered periodically as conditions change and new challenges arise.

Goal 1: Deer Population Management – Proactively manage deer populations for a balanced sex and age structure while maintaining densities at or below the biological and social carrying capacity within the defined management units using science-based wildlife management practices.

The white-tailed deer is highly valued by the citizens of Missouri; however, conflicts between deer and humans as a result of agricultural damage, deer-vehicle collisions, landscaping damage, and suppression of forest regeneration do occur. MDC attempts to minimize the negative impacts of deer by keeping deer populations at acceptable levels and providing landowners and communities a diversity of lethal and non-lethal alternatives to mitigate damage risk.

It is important for a deer management plan to define management units and to propose measures to assess current status of the population. A plan should also propose population goals, management strategies to achieve the population goal, and a method to monitor population response. Ultimately, there can only be three desired deer population management objectives: increasing the deer population, maintaining the population, or reducing the population. Therefore, management unit population status can be simply stated as having too many deer, about the right number of deer, or too few deer.

The challenge in establishing population goals is balancing social and biological demands given that there are variable deer densities, habitat conditions, and stakeholder attitudes toward deer within and among management units. Any method for establishing population goals should give consideration to all potentially affected interests within the management unit. In the end, public attitudes toward deer and perceptions of the population will determine the success or failure of the deer management program in Missouri.

Recreational hunting is the preferred method for managing deer populations and the associated deer-human conflicts. However, traditional hunting practices may not always be feasible or effective. Therefore, maintaining alternatives to traditional management for mitigation of damage is critical to ensuring that the public continues to place a high value on deer in Missouri.

Objective A – Establish deer population goals for each management unit (e.g., county or aggregate of counties in urban areas) with consideration to available habitat, recreational demand, and the potential for deer-related damage

Strategy 1 – Evaluate current methods for establishing population goals, and investigate potential new methods that incorporate habitat characteristics, hunter satisfaction and success, human-deer conflicts, and other factors (e.g., land use and human density)

Strategy 2 – Evaluate the current processes, and investigate alternative mechanisms for obtaining stakeholder input for establishing population goals and proposing changes to the demographics of the deer population

Objective B – Annually assess and monitor deer populations within each management unit using science-based techniques

Strategy 1 – Evaluate current and future data collection needs for population assessment and monitoring that use science-based methods (e.g., statistical population reconstruction) to accurately assess population trends within each management unit using harvest data, hunter surveys, and other methods as appropriate

Strategy 2 – Utilize surveys of randomly selected hunters and landowners in addition to other public input methods to determine socially acceptable population levels.

Strategy 3 – Develop and implement methods to monitor herd health and habitat parameters (including age distribution, reproductive rates, age-specific antler development, physical condition, and vegetation monitoring) to ensure deer populations are in balance with available habitat.

Strategy 4 – Increase citizen participation in data collection that generates indices of deer abundance, sex ratio, and recruitment (e.g., Bowhunter Observation Survey, partnerships with local government entities, and landowner cooperatives)

Objective C – Establish effective harvest guidelines for management of deer on both public and private lands within each deer management unit to meet population goals

Strategy 1 – Evaluate current season timing and structure to meet goals of managing for balanced herd structure

Strategy 2 – Periodically evaluate the regulatory framework to ensure that regulations are simple, easily understood, and provide the flexibility necessary to achieve population levels required to meet management goals on both public and private lands

Strategy 3 – Annually evaluate population status within each management unit and if needed adjust the availability of antlerless permits, modify the availability and length of the antlerless season, and adjust other regulatory options in order to maintain or achieve population goals.

Objective D – Develop or continue programs for localized deer management within a management unit (e.g., conservation areas, cooperatives, communities)

Strategy 1 – Develop deer population management and regulatory strategies for conservation areas that achieve deer population demographics (densities, sex-ratio, and age-structure) similar to those on private lands while providing a diversity of hunting opportunities with consistent easy to understand regulations.

Strategy 2 – Continue to work with other partners (e.g., Missouri Dept. of Natural Resources, US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Forest Service, and National Park Service) to implement appropriate population management strategies on public lands not owned or managed by MDC

Strategy 3 – Evaluate the impacts of antlerless permits on management of deer populations on conservation areas and other public areas currently open to statewide

regulations (e.g., US National Forest) and, if needed, develop an alternative strategy to meet population goals

Strategy 4 – Evaluate the effectiveness of current regulations and investigate additional management strategies for communities dealing with localized deer management challenges

Strategy 5 – Evaluate current strategies and develop new methods for engaging local communities, landowners, and cooperatives in deer management

Objective E – Provide flexible and innovative management tools and/or opportunities for communities, hunters, and landowners to achieve localized deer management objectives while meeting overall population goals

Strategy 1 – Review current permitting structure for landowners and evaluate alternative strategies to provide site-specific deer management programs to ensure flexibility for localized management strategies (e.g., Deer Management Assistance Program, Authorization to Destroy Deer) that are consistent with population goals.

Strategy 2 – Develop guidelines and procedures for handling deer damage complaints and issuance of Authorization to Destroy Deer to ensure consistent implementation of damage management

Strategy 3 – Continue to provide technical assistance on various lethal and non-lethal approaches to management of deer-related damage

Objective F – Increase effectiveness and management of deer populations in urban and suburban communities.

Strategy 1 – Review current strategies and policies (e.g., urban zone designations, methods), and evaluate alternatives to minimize conflicts and meet population goals in areas where traditional population management is constrained or not feasible

Strategy 2 – Continue to engage elected officials, municipal agencies, and local residents in community deer management evaluation methods and promote inter-community dialog on deer management challenges

Strategy 3 – Continue outreach efforts to educate hunters, landowners, and communities on their role in deer management

Objective G – Determine ecosystem impacts of deer and manage deer populations within levels that ensure maintenance of biologically diverse ecosystems

Strategy 1 – Develop and implement methods to monitor levels of deer impacts and associated influence on ecosystem function

Strategy 2 – Develop ecosystem impact objectives for management units with sensitive habitats (e.g., natural areas)

Goal 2: Hunting and Recreation – Provide opportunities for all citizens to enjoy deer-related recreational activities, and promote deer hunting as a socially and culturally important tradition that is the primary tool to achieving deer population goals.

White-tailed deer hunting has become an important part of Missouri's wildlife conservation heritage and modern day traditions. In 2013, more than 513,000 individuals possessed some form of a deer hunting permit. Additionally, Missouri deer hunters annually spend more than seven million days hunting and had total annual expenditures of more than \$800,000,000.

Deer hunting is the primary tool that MDC utilizes to manage deer populations. Therefore, proper application of this management tool is critical to meeting deer population goals. Additionally, there is a great deal of tradition associated with Missouri's deer hunting seasons; however, a cultural shift in the expectation of the hunting experience is occurring, with an increasing desire among hunters to see, and have the opportunity to harvest more older age class bucks. However, many deer hunters still want the opportunity to harvest any legal deer. Additionally, to achieve the deer population goals and maintain high levels of public satisfaction with the deer management, the desires of all user groups must be understood.

Objective A – Establish deer hunting season structure and regulations that achieve the deer population goal and promote hunter participation, recruitment, and retention

Strategy 1 – Determine attributes that affect the quality of the deer hunting experience (e.g., hunter density/interference, deer population characteristics, access) to ensure hunter retention

Strategy 2 – Evaluate current season structure, timing, and methods to maximize hunting opportunities consistent with population goals

Strategy 3 – Maintain quality of recreational hunting experience by maintaining a simple regulatory framework that provides a diversity of hunting opportunities

Strategy 4 – Continue to promote family and youth deer hunting to ensure hunter recruitment and retention

Objective B – Continue to promote recreational hunting as the primary tool to manage deer population

Strategy 1- Continue to promote hunting as the most effective option for managing deer populations

Strategy 2 – Continue to promote participation in Share the Harvest to demonstrate a local use of the deer resource and help ensure adequate harvest of deer

Objective C – Create a simple regulatory system that ensures fair and equitable allocation of hunting opportunities (e.g., seasons, methods, and permits) on private lands

Strategy 1 – Evaluate current system of allocation of permits to hunters and landowners and adjust as appropriate

Strategy 2 – Evaluate participation in various portions of the firearms and archery seasons and, where appropriate, adjust to provide additional opportunities

Objective D – Provide satisfactory hunting opportunities on public lands

Strategy 1 – Review the current allocation of hunting opportunities and regulations structure on MDC conservation areas (e.g., regulations, managed hunts, permit application) and develop an adaptive management strategy to ensure that, where possible, population goals meet recreational desires

Strategy 2 – Work with existing partner agencies to explore new opportunities (e.g., US Forest Service, National Park Service, and Missouri Department of Natural Resources) to provide quality hunting opportunities on public lands not owned or managed by MDC

Strategy 3 – Address deer habitat needs (e.g., bedding area, fawning cover) on MDC conservation areas

Objective E – Facilitate better deer hunting opportunities on private land

Strategy 1 – Continue to provide sound technical assistance to landowners regarding habitat management for white-tailed deer

Strategy 2 – Continue to provide technical guidance to landowners and landowner cooperatives regarding deer management

Goal 3: Deer Health and Disease – Ensure the maintenance of a healthy deer population and minimize the threat and impacts of disease on the deer populations in Missouri.

The Missouri Department of Conservation is responsible for ensuring the health of the deer population through management and regulation. Like all wildlife species, the white-tailed deer is susceptible to a number of diseases and parasites. The periodic occurrence of hemorrhagic disease (epizootic hemorrhagic disease and blue tongue), and the recent introduction of chronic wasting disease (CWD) to Missouri have raised public concerns regarding the short- and long-term impacts of diseases on the health of Missouri's deer population.

Chronic wasting disease, once established within a deer population, poses a significant threat to the long-term health and size of the state's deer herd. The emergence of CWD in Missouri not only jeopardizes the health of Missouri's deer population, it is also a long-term threat to the state's hunting heritage. Management actions to minimize the impact of CWD within our deer herd and efforts to reduce the spread and risk of future introductions require immediate attention.

The management response must give consideration to the level of risk any disease poses to the health of the deer herd, other wildlife, livestock, and humans. Identification and monitoring of diseases of concern coupled with development of contingency plans to deal with current and emerging disease risk will be beneficial in addressing current and future disease management challenges.

Objective A – Conduct monitoring of deer herd health and implement surveillance programs for diseases that pose a significant risk to the deer population

Strategy 1 – Maintain the current surveillance and management program to assess distribution and limit the further spread of CWD in Missouri

Strategy 2 – Implement a plan for handling and disposing of diseased deer that reduces the risk of spreading disease to new areas

Strategy 3 – Evaluate the need for additional surveillance of other diseases and develop monitoring programs where appropriate

Strategy 4 – Evaluate current methods and, if necessary, develop new methods to monitor health and condition of the deer population

Objective B – Implement policies and regulations to minimize the risk of introducing diseases not currently established in Missouri, and reduce the prevalence of diseases already established

Strategy 1 – Develop contingency plans to manage diseases in free-ranging and captive cervids, where possible, to prevent or minimize population impacts (e.g., CWD Management Plan)

Strategy 2 – Regulate captive cervid in a manner that minimizes the risk for disease transmission with free-ranging deer and elk

Strategy 3 – Evaluate the allowance of supplemental feeding and other activities that increase the likelihood of disease transmission by unnaturally concentrating deer

Strategy 4 – Collaborate with adjoining states and other wildlife professionals around the country to stay informed about new and emerging wildlife disease issues and respond appropriately to emerging threats

Objective C – Minimize risks from diseases that impact multiple species, such as wildlife, humans and livestock.

Strategy 1 – Educate the public about zoonotic disease risks

Strategy 2 – Work with public health agencies to monitor diseases of human health concern

Strategy 3 – Promote management practices that minimize the risk of introduction and spread of infectious diseases

Goal 4: Education, Communication, and Public Engagement – Provide abundant and adequate information to the public about all aspects of deer management in Missouri, and create opportunities for additional public engagement in decisions about the management of Missouri deer resource.

The public is very interested and directly affected by all aspects of deer management. Additionally, any discussion of deer hunting or management is likely to elicit a strong response. Public opinions and philosophies often stem from traditions, long-held ideals, and biases that may be difficult to change. Because of the diversity of stakeholders affected by deer management, it is critical that effective communication and engagement be a priority to ensure the long-term success of the deer management program. It is widely recognized that engaging large diverse groups of stakeholders is extremely difficult, and development of educational materials that clearly communicate management strategies is no simple task. Therefore, MDC must implement a clear strategy to engage the public, key stakeholders, and partner organizations to proactively address management issues.

Objective A – Clearly and effectively communicate deer management strategies to all stakeholders

Strategy 1 – Ensure that deer management information provided to the public is science-based, socially acceptable, accurate and relevant

Strategy 2 – Develop and implement a deer communication strategy that relays appropriate deer management information to the public and key stakeholders

Objective B – Ensure stakeholder engagement in deer management decisions and clearly communicate outcomes.

Strategy 1 – Develop and implement a strategy to engage a diversity of stakeholders when considering deer management issues

Strategy 2 – Use the most appropriate science-based human dimensions approaches when quantifying public perceptions of deer management

Strategy 3 – When necessary, engage various stakeholders through surveys, public meetings/open houses, focus groups, and or other appropriate public input venues to ensure citizen interests are considered

Objective C – Continue to coordinate with partners to provide science-based deer management information and implement educational outreach programs

Strategy 1 – Continue to work with University of Missouri Extension Service to develop and distribute relevant science-based deer management publications

Strategy 2 – Engage and support partners in education and outreach efforts

Objective D – Continue to value and promote the role of the private landowner and landowner cooperatives in the management of Missouri's deer herd

Strategy 1 – Continue to host regional private land management workshops on quality deer management, herd health, landowner cooperatives, land management and survey techniques

Strategy 2 – Provide guidance to landowners and landowner cooperatives regarding quality deer management



Regulation Changes for the 2016-2017 Deer Season under Consideration

Summary of Changes under Consideration:

- **Firearms Season Changes**
 - *Maintain the current timing of the November portion and reduce the length to 9-days*
 - *Expand the late youth portion to 3-days beginning the first Friday after Thanksgiving*
 - *Reduce the length of the antlerless portion to 3-days and begin on the first Friday in December*
 - *Eliminate the urban zones portion*
- **Archery Season Changes**
 - *Allow crossbows as a legal method during the archery deer and turkey season*
 - *Reduce the limit of antlered deer during the archery season to 1*
- **Conservation Area Regulations**
 - *Simplify conservation area regulations by limiting methods and use of firearms and archery antlerless permits*

MDC General Philosophy on Hunting Regulations and Season Structure

MDC's role and responsibility regarding hunting, fishing, and hunter / angler participation—**when consistent with biological considerations**—is to:

- Provide maximum opportunity and access;
- Minimize barriers;
- Use hunting to achieve wildlife management objectives;
- Support the economic benefits that result from hunting and fishing;
- Ensure that hunting and fishing remain viable mainstream activities for Missourians;
- Promote an understanding of our hunting and fishing heritage and traditions.

Background

Throughout the development of the White-tailed Deer Management Plan, we have clearly outlined that our current priority for deer management in Missouri is to have a hunting season structure that achieves the Department's deer population goals while promoting hunter participation, recruitment, and retention.

Currently, the Department uses hunter surveys, production landowner surveys, archer observation surveys, deer population simulations, biological data, harvest summaries, and public comments when determining deer population goals for a particular management unit or county.

We gathered public input on Missouri's White-tailed Deer Management Plan and proposed regulations changes using quantitative scientific surveys of deer hunters, and open houses conducted around the state to gather public comment, along with a designated webpage to collect comments. Scientific surveys are a means of obtaining levels of support or opposition that Missouri deer hunters have toward a proposed regulation change. Alternately, the open houses and web comments provided the public an opportunity to give us feedback on what they view as important issues and how they would like to see the department address those issues. The public comments provided to the department on various deer management issues were considered in the development of these regulations recommendations as feedback provides context to the opinions expressed in scientific surveys.

The current Missouri deer season structure was built during an era with a rapidly growing deer population, coupled with a concern that hunters would not be able, nor willing, to harvest enough does to stabilize or decrease deer numbers in much of rural Missouri. That paradigm has shifted as deer populations in much of Missouri are either at or below desired levels. Therefore, in order to meet the deer management challenges of today, we must devise a new approach to deer management and reconsider the structure of the Missouri deer season. The goal is to adjust regulations in a manner that produces the desired population change (i.e., increase, stabilize, or decrease) and attempts to maximize hunter recruitment and retention. The regulations changes we are considering are to accomplish our goal modifying the current hunting season structure to achieve the Department's deer population goals while promoting hunter participation, recruitment, and retention.

Regulation Changes under Consideration

Firearms Season Changes

November Portion:

The timing of the November portion of the firearms deer season during the peak of the rut was established when the deer population was below desired levels and the goal was to increase deer numbers by minimizing doe harvest and maximizing participation by encouraging buck harvest. Consequently, setting the November portion to coincide with the rut was a good deer management strategy in the early years of deer management. Deer activity is highest at that time so deer, especially bucks, are vulnerable to hunting. This was appropriate because we were most interested in protecting antlerless deer and taking a high proportion of antlered bucks was acceptable. Additionally, when the November portion was established, many hunters were restricted to taking only antlered deer and were not selective, shooting the first legal deer they encountered. Hunters were satisfied because hunting during the peak of the rut increased their chances of taking a deer.

A growing deer population throughout the 1980's and 1990's produced many modifications of deer management objectives, shifting from a buck harvest emphasis to a doe harvest emphasis. In addition, deer hunter interests have changed. Hunters are becoming increasingly selective and increasingly supportive of managing for a greater proportion of bucks in older age-classes. Furthermore, the current November portion timing results in the removal of bucks during the peak of the breeding period, which is disruptive to the establishment of dominance hierarchies, and, biologically, is not the ideal time to apply heavy buck harvest. These dominance hierarchies ensure that the most fit, but not necessarily largest, bucks do a disproportionate amount of the breeding. For example, the current timing means that only approximately 40% of the breeding occurs prior to the November portion. A one-week later shift would mean that approximately 75% of the does would breed prior to opening of this portion of the deer season. A later season would maintain the dominance hierarchies so that more fit bucks have greater of a chance of breeding.

A 2013 survey of Missouri deer hunters indicated a high level of opposition to moving the November portion of the firearms season outside of the rut, and more opposition than support for moving the November portion one week later. Generally, these results indicate that Missouri deer hunters value the opportunity to hunt deer during the rut when activity is greatest and do not desire a change in the timing of the November portion. For the reasons listed above, the current timing of the November portion of the firearms deer season is not biologically the ideal time. However, it is hard to dispute the positive social impacts of providing quality hunting opportunities to the greatest number of hunters during the period of peak deer activity. Thus, we do not recommend changing the opening date of the November portion of the firearms deer season at this time. Nevertheless, as attitudes and hunter desires shift, future consideration of a change in timing of the November portion is appropriate.

Additionally, in 1994 the November portion of the firearms deer season was expanded from 9 days to 11 days in response to a growing deer population. Over the last two decades, deer hunter numbers and deer harvest opportunities (i.e., permits, open hunting days) have increased substantially. Over the same time period the deer population has stabilized or been reduced in many parts of Missouri. Therefore, we are considering reducing the length of the firearms deer season by two days to ensure that deer population goals continue to be met. Reducing the length of the November firearms deer season will only minimally reduce opportunity and harvest because the final two days of the November portion of the firearms deer season have traditionally been the two days with the lowest hunter harvest (Figure 1) and number of hunting trips (Figure 2).

Change under Consideration: Maintain the current timing of the November Portion of the Firearms Deer Season and shorten to 9-day.

Youth Portions:

In 2001, the Department initiated the first youth firearms portion of the deer season to get young hunters in the woods when the chance of success is optimal, and to engage them in hunting and the outdoors at an early age. In 2009, youth firearms hunting opportunities were expanded to include a late youth portion which was timed to follow all other portions of the firearms deer season. The addition of the youth portions and other youth recruitment efforts has been successful at increasing young hunter participation. However, it is not clear that these efforts are successfully retaining young hunters. Therefore, we continue to explore opportunities to provide quality hunting opportunities, like those provided during the early youth portion. Quality hunting opportunities are critical to success and satisfaction with the hunting experience. The current timing of the late youth portion has much lower success and participation than the early youth portion (Figures 1 and 2). Therefore, we recommend moving the late youth portion of the firearms deer season from the current timing of late December or early January to the Friday through Sunday following Thanksgiving. Altering the timing should increase success and participation as a result of better deer activity and weather conditions in late November when compared to the current timing of the late youth portion. Additionally, it expands youth hunting opportunities to include an additional day in which schools will be closed.

Change under Consideration: Expand the late youth portion to 3-days beginning the first Friday after Thanksgiving

Antlerless Portion:

The antlerless portion of the firearms deer season was implemented in 1996 to increase the harvest of antlerless deer in response to a rapidly growing deer population in portions of the state. However, because participation was much lower than during the November portion of the firearms season, the antlerless portion has not resulted in a significant overall increase in antlerless harvest (Figures 1 and 2). Much of the harvest occurring during the antlerless portion is likely the result of shifting antlerless harvest out of the November portion. For example, in 2013, the antlerless portion only made up 6% of the total firearms deer harvest and 7% of the total antlerless deer harvest.

The deer population in most of Missouri is currently at or below the population goal. Thus, the additional antlerless harvest opportunities provided by the antlerless portion are no longer necessary to meet population goals. Also, increasing the number of deer hunting days with the creation of youth portions, expansion of November, antlerless, and alternative methods portions has created conflicts between deer hunters and other outdoors users like small game hunters. Removing or reducing the length of the antlerless portion of the deer season may result in some lost deer hunting opportunities, but it would reduce conflicts that occur between other hunters and outdoor users due to the length of the current deer hunting seasons. Therefore, we recommend reducing the length of the antlerless portion.

Change under Consideration: Reduce the length of the antlerless portion to 3-days and begin on the first Friday in December.

Urban Zones Portion:

The goal of the Department's urban deer management program is to provide individuals and communities with information about deer management and to assist, as requested, in the management of white-tailed deer by providing management expertise, deer management plans, and population control options that provide residents and communities with effective ways to manage deer.

The Department has taken a progressive and proactive approach to urban and suburban deer management by adding tools to the toolbox to help urban and suburban communities meet their deer management objectives.

The urban zones portion of the firearms deer season was implemented as one tool to address issues associated with overabundant urban deer populations. Department staff working closely with local communities to implement management strategies have led to ordinance changes allowing the use of archery equipment and controlled hunts in cities across the state, both of which have proven to be far more effective at managing urban deer populations than the implementation of the urban zones portion of the firearms deer season. The allowance of an additional firearms hunting opportunity in urban zones does little to manage deer populations where the ability to use firearms is limited due to city ordinances or safety concerns. As a result, the majority of harvest during the urban zones portion occurs in the most rural portions and does not ensure adequate deer harvest in the locations where urban deer conflicts occur. Therefore, we are considering eliminating the urban zones portion of the firearms deer season. Removal of the urban zones portion will simplify the deer season structure and will not jeopardize the progress towards effective urban deer management that has occurred in many communities across the state.

Change under Consideration: Eliminate the urban zones portion of the firearms deer season

Archery Season Changes

Archery Methods:

The archery deer season has been growing in popularity over the past several years. Additionally, archery hunting is a critical deer management tool in many urban areas where the discharge of firearms is restricted. With the increasing popularity of the archery season, we have received an increasing number of requests to expand the season to include crossbows, which are currently only allowed with a Hunting Method Exemption.

Currently more than 10,000 Hunting Method Exemptions are in effect to allow persons with disabilities to use a crossbow during the archery deer season. A 2008 report on archery deer hunters found that similar to other types of hunting activity, many hunters begin at an early age, then decline in participation during the late teen and college years, followed by a return in the mid-to-late twenties with somewhat stable participation until around the age of 40. Once hunters enter their 40's, archery participation diverges from firearms deer hunter participation. It appears this is the age when Missouri archery hunters begin to "drop out" of archery hunting. If, as suspected, physical limitations further the decline in participation of middle-aged archery hunters, allowing the use of crossbows would prolong participation for several years for those that still retain a desire to hunt.

Support and request for allowance of crossbows during the archery season have increase significantly over the last several years. A 2012 survey of 18,000 Missouri deer hunters indicated that 46% approve and 33% disapprove of allowing crossbows during the archery season. Therefore, the many Missourians who have individually requested additional crossbow hunting opportunity would no doubt welcome the allowance of crossbows during the archery deer season.

Our challenge is to balance contrasting hunter opinions with the desire to provide maximum hunting opportunity while also responsibly managing Missouri's deer population. In an effort to maximize hunting opportunities, recruit younger hunters and retain older hunters, we are considering expanding the archery season to include crossbows.

Change under Consideration: Allow the use of crossbows by all hunters during the Archery Deer Season

Archery Antlered Deer Limit:

As population management goals shift toward encouraging antlerless harvest and hunters' desire to see more bucks in older age-classes, wildlife biologist have begun to consider the restrictions on buck harvest as a tool to manage the sex ratio and age structure of the deer population. For example, the antler-point restriction was implemented to shift harvest pressure from bucks to does and improve age structure of the buck segment of the

populations. The point restriction has reduced the harvest of bucks 1½ years old, but has not greatly reduced total buck harvest. Therefore, one option to consider is reducing the total number of bucks an individual could harvest to reduce pressure on the buck segment of the population. This is particularly important as we explore ways to ensure appropriate antlerless harvest and meet hunter desires for more bucks in older age classes, particularly in areas where the antler point restriction is not biologically or socially appropriate.

The allowance of two bucks during the archery season was established at a time when there were relatively few archers and archery harvest made up a relatively small proportion of the total harvest and deer populations were rapidly expanding. Each year archery harvest makes up a larger proportion of the total antlered buck and overall deer harvest. For example, in 2000 archery deer harvest made up 10% of the total deer harvest and 11% of the antlered buck harvest, by 2013 those numbers had increased to 20% and 19%, respectively.

A recent survey of deer hunters indicates very low support for a limit of one buck all methods (archery and firearms) combined. However, public input indicates that many hunters would be accepting of a one archery antler deer and one firearms antlered deer limit. Therefore, we are considering reducing the number of antlered deer that may be taken during the Archery Deer Season to one.

Change under Consideration: Reduce the limit of antlered bucks taken during the Archery Deer Season to one.

Conservation Area Deer Regulations

Deer management on Missouri's public areas has had a diverse history ranging from refuges that served as a source of deer during the state's deer herd restoration in 1940's-60's to the current offering of diverse hunting opportunities. Diverse hunting regulations on conservation areas have been established to fulfill the desires of hunters with different harvest and hunting method interests.

In 2005, the Department applied six deer hunting regulations on conservation areas and monitored how they affected deer numbers and hunter attitudes. During 2005, 2006, 2011, and 2012, hunters on select conservation areas were randomly interviewed and received follow-up surveys to determine their perceptions of the deer population, hunting experiences, and overall satisfaction with different hunting regulations.

The study found that for most hunters, the opportunity to see and harvest a deer is important, affecting how hunters select an area to hunt, and their satisfaction with the hunting experience. The results suggest that conservation areas with restrictive regulations (archery only, archery/muzzleloader methods, and bucks only) increase opportunities to see deer and produce more satisfied hunters than areas with more liberal regulations (statewide, open during antlerless portion). However, for some hunters the opportunity to hunt deer and use whatever permits are available in the county is most important.

Generally, deer hunters on public land have lower success rates, perceive lower deer numbers, and tend to rate their hunting experiences lower than private land hunters. We continue to strive to manage deer numbers at desirable levels while providing diverse deer hunting opportunities for the public. The current set of deer regulations hunting options on Conservation Areas are confusing, do not allow managers to adapt regulations to changing deer populations, and in general there is low hunter satisfaction. Therefore, to increase hunter satisfaction and effectiveness of area regulations, we are considering changes that would simplify regulations and give managers the ability to adjust regulations to adapt to current deer population conditions.

Change under Consideration: Simplify Conservation Area regulations to include Archery Methods Only, Archery and Muzzleloader Methods Only, or Archery and Firearms Methods Only with optional allowance of Archery and Firearms Antlerless Permits.

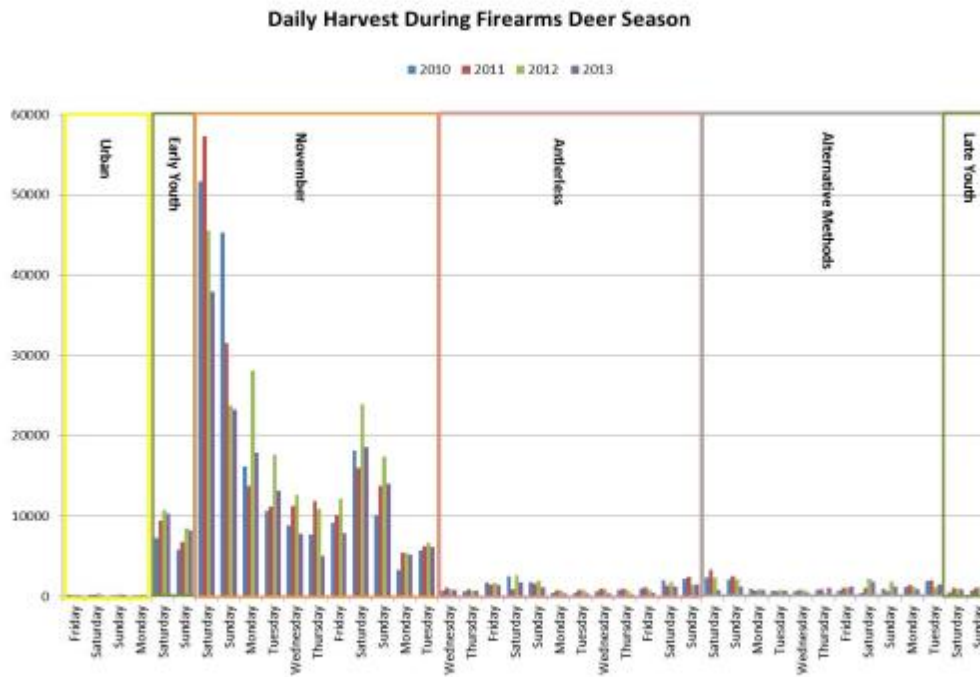


Figure 1. Daily harvest totals during the urban zones, early youth, November, antlerless, alternative methods, and late youth portions of the firearms deer season from 2010 through 2013.

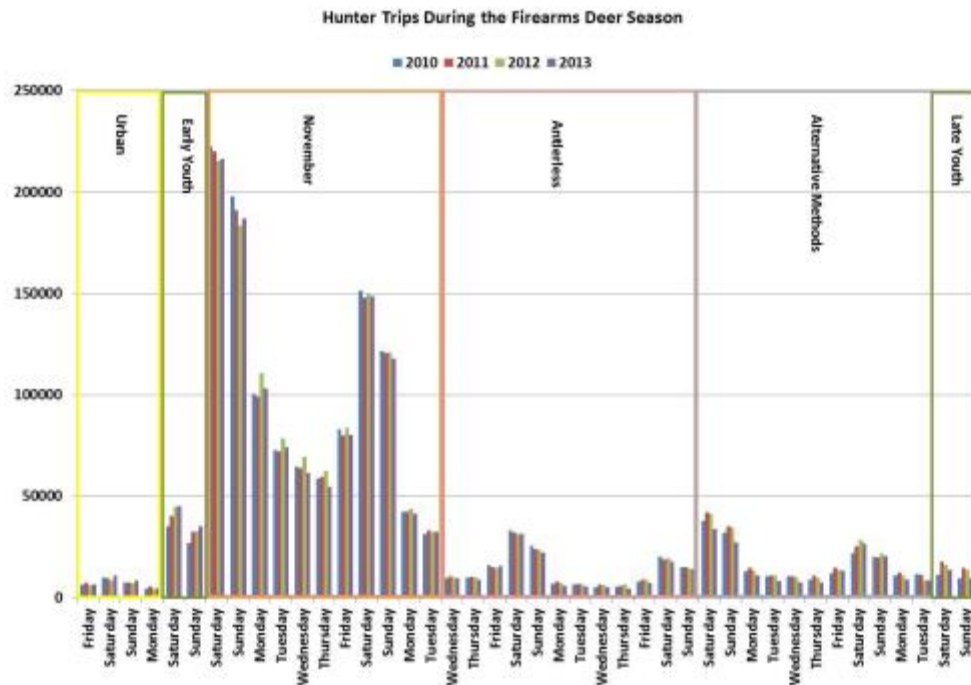


Figure 2. Estimated daily hunting trips during the urban zones, early youth, November, antlerless, alternative methods, and late youth portions of the firearms deer season from 2010 through 2013.

Summary of Changes for the 2016–2017 Deer Season Under Consideration:

Firearms Season Changes

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- Reduce the length of the antlerless portion to three days, beginning the first Friday in December
- Eliminate the urban zones portion

Archery Season Changes

- Allow crossbows as a legal method during the archery deer and turkey season
- Reduce the limit of antlered deer during the archery season to one

Conservation Area Regulations

- Simplify conservation area regulations by limiting methods and use of firearms and archery antlerless permits

MDC will hold the following public meetings around the state from 5 to 8 p.m.:

February 24 – MDC Burr Oak Woods Nature Center
1401 N.W. Park Road in Blue Springs

February 26 – MDC Powder Valley Nature Center
11715 Cragwold Road in Kirkwood

March 3 – MDC Springfield Nature Center
4601 S. Nature Center Way in Springfield

March 5 – West Plains Civic Center, Dogwood 1 and 2
110 St. Louis St. in West Plains

March 10 – MDC Cape Girardeau Nature Center
2289 County Park Drive in Cape Girardeau

March 12 – MDC Northeast Regional Office
3500 S. Baltimore in Kirksville

March 16 – MDC Central Regional Office
3500 E. Gans Road in Columbia

March 31 – MDC Northwest Regional Office
701 James McCarthy Drive in St. Joseph

Be informed and get involved. Learn more and share comments at mdc.mo.gov/deer-reg-comments or mail your comments to Missouri Department of Conservation, Attention: Policy Coordination, PO Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102.



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About You

Your Name: _____

Your City: _____ Your ZIP Code: _____

Gender: ☐ Male ☐ Female

Age: ☐ Under 19 ☐ 20 to 34 ☐ 35 to 54 ☐ 55 to 74 ☐ 75 and older

Do you consider yourself a hunter? ☐ Yes ☐ No

How did you hear about the proposed deer season changes?

☐ Newspaper ☐ Radio ☐ Conservationist Magazine ☐ MDC website ☐ Social media
☐ Other website ☐ MDC employee ☐ Friend or neighbor ☐ Other

Comment Tell us your comments on the 2016-2017 deer season changes under consideration.

Stay In Touch

☐ Yes, email me with news about MDC's deer management efforts.

Your Email: _____

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2013-2014 Missouri Deer Season Summary & Population Status Report

<http://huntfish.mdc.mo.gov/sites/default/files/downloads/2014deerstatusreport.pdf>